■ WORLD / A10

UN: HIV cases top 40M, AIDS kills 3.1M in 2005

■ NEWS / A2

More doctors leave RP as nurses, say no future here

■ ACROSS / A15

Comelec junks Dy poll protest case vs Padaca

■ SPORTS / A19

Younghusbands and RP football make a fine couple

58% want GMA to quit; 40% shun coup, says poll

NEARLY SIX OF EVERY 10 FILIPINOS WANT President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, even though she survived an attempt to impeach her over allegations of election cheating, a leading pollster said yesterday.

Only 35 percent of respondents wanted Ms Arroyo to stay, with 58 percent preferring that she go, Pulse Asia Inc. said.

58% WANT/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Widows wail as Ka Roger celebrates Iloilo ambush

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

ON ONE SIDE, THE WIDOW RAGED. ON THE other, the rebel spokesperson commended communist guerrillas for the ambush and said the people should celebrate.

The angry widow was Rosemarie Billorente, whose husband, SSgt. Paterno Bil-

WIDOWS / A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, November 22, 2005 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 347 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Political killings escalate

Newsman, Bayan leader shot dead; bodies of 2 leftists found

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IN AN APPARENT UPSURGE OF POLITICAL killings, gunmen shot dead a reporter and a left-wing militant and police found the bodies of a youth leader and her husband who were kidnapped nearly a month ago.

Roberto "Robby" Ramos, 39, a reporter and columnist of the Cavite-based weekly Katapat News, was killed on Sunday by two motorcycle-riding men in front of Pinky's Market in Barangay Banlic, Cabuyao, Laguna, at 7:45 p.m, police said.

Ramos was the ninth journalist killed in the country this year and the second in three days. On Friday, broadcaster Ricardo Uy was shot dead by a gunman in front of his house in Sorsogon City.

Since the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, 99 journalists have been killed in the Philippines, according to a list compiled by the INQUIRER. The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) put the figure at 72.

"We urge the President and the police to drop their self-serving rhetoric and work genuinely and resolutely for the arrest, prosecution and punishment of killers of journalists," the NUJP said in a statement.

"The President must act to erase the Philippines' notoriety as the most murderous and the most dangerous—next only to Iraq—country in the world for journalists," it said.

In Pampanga, Rommel Arcilla, a Bagong Alyansang Makabayan member, was killed by armed men at the Guagua-Floridablanca intersection at 7:30 a.m. yesterday, police said. His wife and 7-year-old son witnessed the killing.

Arcilla was driving a jeep to work at the Pampanga Electric Cooperative II where he was community relations officer when four men on two motorcycles fired at him. He sustained three bullet wounds, according to

POLITICAL/ A8

THE METROPOLITAN Theater: Symbol of the Filipinos' struggle for identity.

PDI FILE PHOTO

Grand Dame ready for another facelift

By Jerome Aning

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

AFTER ALMOST A DECADE OF neglect and disuse, the Metropolitan Theater—fondly called the Met—will be restored to its former glory.

Three government agencies finally got their act together and will be working to restore the "grand dame" of Manila's theaters which is located at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the City of Manila had set aside their differences and signed a work and action plan (WAP) last June.

In response, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of P50 million to partially fund the restoration of the Met.

A private consultancy firm was commissioned to conduct a detailed engineering study (DES) of the theater which began last week. In five months, the firm will submit its report detailing the condition of the Met's structure and how it could be restored.

It took no less than Ms Arroyo herself to end the feud among the NCCA, GSIS and City Hall. On Jan. 7, 2004, she witnessed the signing of a tripartite agreement among Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, GSIS president Winston Garcia and Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig, NCCA chair.

The agreement was an offshoot of the President's speech during the 2002 Cultural and Arts Conference, where she spoke of the need to make culture "folksy," stressing that one of her administration's priorities was to provide an accessible culture and arts

GRAND/ A6

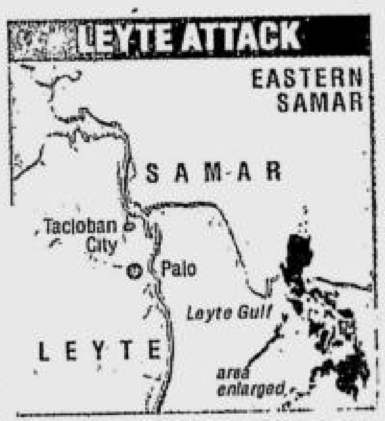
Soldiers raid Leyte village, kill 7 farmers

By Joey A. Gabieta
and Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—SOLDIERS raided a farming village yesterday and shot dead dead seven farmers, including two women, in what militants said was a massacre and the military termed an encounter with communist rebels.

Ten other civilians, some reportedly hit in the back, were wounded in the shooting that erupted early yesterday in a village in Palo town, Leyte, less than 48 hours after nine soldiers were killed by rebel-planted land mines in Iloilo province.

Peasant groups said the victims were peacefully gathered in Palo's Barangay San Agustin when soldiers opened fire.



The military said the gunfire first came from the farmers, branding them as members of the communist New People's Army.

Palo Mayor Teodoro Sevilla said he was "shocked" to hear about the incident and immediately ordered the police to investigate.

Sevilla said the barangay

SOLDIERS / A7

Journalists in violent settings learn about 3 I's

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IMPUNITY, IHL (INTERNATIONAL humanitarian law) and ICC (International Criminal Court). These were the three I's that journalists from Southeast Asian countries learned more about during a two-day seminar conducted exclusively for them recently.

Using the backdrop of armed conflicts between warring nations and ethnic, ideological and religious groups, experts on the three I's stressed to journalists the need for international laws and a court of last resort where victims could seek redress.

Massive suffering inflicted especially on innocents and how perpetrators have gotten away unpunished were among the topics of discussion.

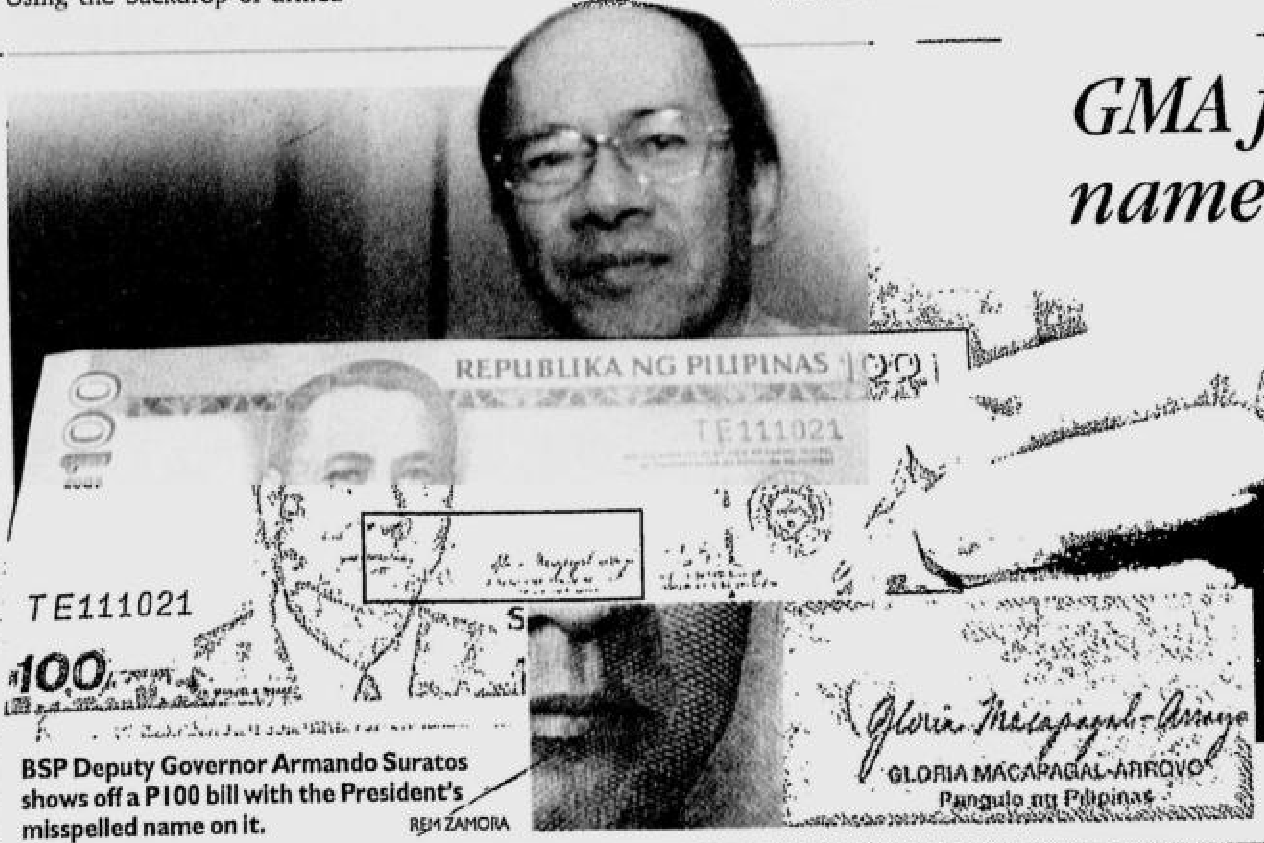
Among the resource speakers were lawyers, human rights advocates and journalists.

Journalists who are among the endangered groups in these violent settings would be better equipped in their coverage and could give depth to their reporting if they knew their three I's.

"Often, it is the journalists who uncover the evidence and tell the stories that change the world," ICC Judge San-Hyun Song said at the First Southeast Asian Conference of Journalists on the International Criminal Court in Quezon City on Nov. 17-18.

"Throughout history, there have been many examples of journalists who have been courageous defenders of justice," said Song, a South Korean from ICC

JOURNALISTS/ A8



BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos shows off a P100 bill with the President's misspelled name on it.

REM ZAMORA

GMA foes on misspelled name: The joke's on her

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Doris C. Dumlao

THE MISSPELLING OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's name as "Arrovo" in P100 bills may have been an honest mistake, but the joke was on her, opposition lawmakers said yesterday.

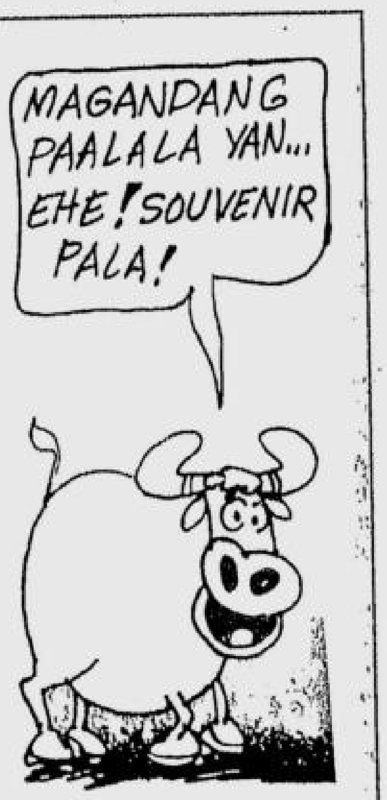
"I hope this is not deliberate," said Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico at a press conference of the minority in the House of Representatives.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said a European contractor printed the P100 bills to ensure a sufficient supply of the bank notes which are highly in demand during the Christmas season.

"My Spanish teacher told me 'rovo' sounded like 'robo,' which means robbery in Spanish. This is from 'robar,' which means to rob someone," Suplico said.

The congressman, a lawyer, pointed out that in one

GMA FOES/ A6


MAGANDANG PAALALA YAN... EHE! SOUVENIR PALA!

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with light rains. Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/22/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONTPAGE

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US MARINES' CUSTODY ISSUE

We'll save money, says DOJ chief

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nikko Dizon

ASIDE FROM THE "VAGUE" PROVISIONS OF THE Visiting Forces Agreement, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday a practical reason for keeping the six US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman in US custody was the money it would save the Philippines.

"What do you really need custody (for?), you will have to feed them," Gonzalez told reporters after defending the Department of Justice's budget at the Senate where he was asked the status of the rape case.

During the hearing, it came out that prisoners had a budgeted daily meal allowance of P35.

"Of course, if we are the ones [with] custody [of the Americans] we should pay [their expenses], including their laundry," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said there was a provision in the VFA that said that US personnel held under Philippine custody should be placed in a detention facility acceptable to them.

"What if they say we have to detain them in an air-conditioned room?" he said.

Gonzalez said the Philippines effectively waived custody of the Marines when officials at Subic Bay, where the rape allegedly took place, acceded to the request of a US military attaché who had gone to the freeport to take the Marines off their vessel, the USS Essex, which was about to leave for Japan.

"Yes, at least when the US military attaché asked for custody and invoked that provision it was understood there was a waiver," Gonzalez said.

He said the request was verbal but pointed out the VFA did not specify a request for custody should be made in writing.

He said the VFA also did not say it was the Department of Foreign Affairs that should ask for custody.

But while saying the DFA had formally requested custody, Gonzalez said it was "good enough" for him that the US had guaranteed the presence of the servicemen when this would be required in the prosecution of the case.

"There's nothing we can do unless we declare war on America," he later said.

But while Gonzalez was not optimistic, a Filipino VFA official expressed hope the US would respond favorably to the Philippines' request for custody before the case's preliminary investigation begins tomorrow.

"We expect a reply before the (Nov.) 23rd. Personally, that's my gut feel. Or at the latest, before a case is filed, if ever, in court after the preliminary investigation," Undersecretary Zosimo Jesus Paredes II told reporters in a chance interview at the DFA Building in Pasay City.

Paredes heads the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA-Com) tasked to oversee the implementation of the VFA. He holds the rank of undersecretary and has his office at the DFA.

"They might say again I am pro-American but this is a fact—all over the world Americans have the reputation of not protecting their erring soldiers," Paredes said.

"If they're at fault, they (US) give up custody of their soldiers. Take, for example, the Abu Ghraib issue. They won't protect (the erring soldiers) and they will see to it that it will not destroy relations between two nations because of recalcitrant soldiers," Paredes said.

Asked if under the VFA, the US government could deny the request for custody, Paredes said the wording of the VFA—that "the Philippine authorities can make a position regarding custody and the US authorities will take it into full account"—was vague.

"It could mean anything. It can mean rejection or let's talk about it, it depends. So definitely, we can't force them (to turn over custody)," Paredes said.

The mystery of the sixth American involved in the rape case deepened, meanwhile, after the Filipino lawyer of one of them yesterday categorically stated his client was innocent because he was not in the van in the first place.

Jose Justiniano of the Salazar Sycip Hernandez & Gatmaitan law offices said Albert Lara, one of those identified by van driver Timoteo Soriano, was not in the rented vehicle where the rape took place.

"He was not there, we have evidence to prove this," Justiniano told the INQUIRER.

He said that was the reason he filed a motion in the Olongapo prosecutor's office last week asking for a confrontation between his client and Soriano.

Justiniano said Soriano's description did not fit Lara, but his client would be there for the preliminary investigation on Nov. 23.

Another serviceman, Dominic Duplantis, is being held by the US Embassy even if neither Soriano nor the 22-year-old victim had identified him.

Both Soriano and the victim recalled only five servicemen but it was the US Embassy that presented six Marines on Nov. 10 to Filipino officials led by Paredes.

It was not explained why the US authorities included Duplantis, but sources who declined to be named said Duplantis was in the van, seated in the second row with Keith Silkwood.

MJ expected to arrive today; Gonzalez expects him to talk

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ does not expect ex-Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez to keep quiet after his return to the country but he did not see any reason President Macapagal-Arroyo should be worried or afraid of him.

"I don't think so. If he has some political intentions he will not go to a corner and sulk, he will speak," Gonzalez told Senate reporters after a budget hearing.

Jimenez, who did time in a US federal prison after his conviction on charges of illegal campaign contributions, was scheduled to arrive this morning on board a Korean Airlines flight.

Sources said neither Jimenez's name nor his alias, Mario Crespo, was on the flight's manifest, but National Bureau of Investigation-Interpol Director Ricardo Diaz said he had checked with the US Embassy which confirmed that Jimenez was arriving as scheduled.

Gonzalez said Jimenez was a free man and faced no charges in the Philippines. While Jimenez's $2 million case against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez involved alleged bribery, Jimenez was not liable as a bribe-giver under Presidential Decree 749.

Gonzalez said the President had nothing to fear from Jimenez, who rocked the Arroyo administration with charges of corruption in 2002 before he was extradited to the US.

He said Ms Arroyo had nothing to do with the $2 million extortion case Jimenez filed against Perez.

"As far as I'm concerned, the President has nothing to do with that, why do you always want to drag the President? You mean to say that everything that happens in this country ... it's the President's fault? That is too much," Gonzalez said.

"Why should she be afraid of him? That is speculative, what he will do or say. But if he has something to say, he should have said that when he was saying those things against Perez. The President has nothing to do with whatever deals he has with Perez," Gonzalez added.

More doctors leaving RP as nurses: No future here

DOCTOR JOSE SANCHEZ IS A LEADING SURgeon in his field but like thousands of Filipino medics he has had enough and is leaving the country ... not as a doctor but as a nurse.

In a coffee shop in Quezon City he contemplates his future with two colleagues in a country where the medical system they say is in terminal decline.

The 50-year-old surgeon with 25 years experience as a lung specialist is just marking time.

Sanchez, not his real name, and two other surgeons agreed to talk with AFP on the condition they were not named or photographed.

Nursing a cup of black coffee, Sanchez says the profession today is not the same as the one he entered in 1980.

"It was different back then. Medicine was a respected profession and money was being spent on healthcare. But what we have today is a health system in terminal decline," he says.

Of the 40 doctors he graduated with 25 years ago Sanchez says over a third have emigrated.

"I don't know of anyone who is happy. It seems like everyone is leaving and the government for its part doesn't see that it has a problem.

"We are just another statistics among a growing list of professionals who see no future in this country." Sanchez says a lack of new recruits is reinforcing the problem.

"When I started it was so difficult getting into medical school. The competition was fierce and the top medical schools set very high standards. Today the standards are still high but the medical schools have difficulty filling places," he says.

"The question people ask me is: Why? Why, after all the years of study and 25 years of practice am I leaving, not as a doctor but taking a step backwards and leaving as a nurse.

"I honestly don't see any future in this country and it is easier to leave as a nurse than as a doctor. The demand for nurses far outweighs the demand for doctors." He says three of his colleagues, all surgeons, are now in the US as nurses and one is now the medical director of a hospital in California.

Sanchez said his salary averages around P100,000 a month. That isn't bad by Filipino standards, but the average salary for a nurse in California is around $4,000 a month.

Sanchez denies his motivation is money.

"I have just lost faith in the ability of our political elites to run the country and run it efficiently. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see that this country is just marking time.

"It's going nowhere. Look around the region and our neighbors are leaving us behind. Even Vietnam is starting to overtake us."

One of Sanchez' colleagues, a 39-year-old surgeon, agrees.

Graduating in 1993 many of his classmates have left the country, some as nurses and some as doctors for international aid agencies.

"Our politicians have no interest in the plight of doctors in this country. Successive governments have become complacent to the erosion of the health system.

"Working conditions in the public sector are appalling. It has reached a point where doctors, many doctors, are finding it hard to make a living in the provinces where doctors are leaving in droves because they can no longer afford to stay.

"I am not talking about luxury living, fast cars and big salaries. You have to understand that most of this country's 80 million or so population is poor. I have colleagues who have left the provinces, and I must add reluctantly, as they were mostly working for free.

"Doctors have to eat and educate their children too."

A 35-year-old obstetrician who graduated in 1995 says about half of the 300 doctors she graduated with have left, mostly after retraining as nurses.

"Medicine is my life," she says. "I think you enter this profession wanting to make a difference. But here in the Philippines we just don't have the tools to administer quality health care.

"It's pathetic. Pathetic that we have a system where hospitals are closing simply because they do not have enough doctors. *AFP*

Exodus leaves health system in state of near collapse

THE PHILIPPINES HAS BECOME ONE OF THE biggest suppliers of healthcare workers in the world but the exodus of nurses and doctors in the last five years for higher paying jobs overseas has left the country's health system in a state of near collapse.

At a summit of healthcare professionals called by the Philippine Medical Association recently delegates were told in a conference paper: "The crisis in medical human resources is now upon us. The delivery of health services is being compromised. We have to address the problem before the health system completely collapses."

Jossel Ebesate, general secretary of the Alliance of Health Workers, said the situation had become so bad that the country's healthcare system would collapse within the next two to three years.

Former health secretary Jaime Galvez Tan, who has been studying the exodus of doctors over the past five years, told AFP: "We are facing a serious problem and we need to address it now before it is too late."

He said the demand for nurses, especially in the United States, is outpacing supply.

"Doctors are leaving for a variety of reasons: political instability, low pay, corruption, poor working conditions and the threat of malpractice. But above all they don't see much hope for the future and the future of their children," he said.

Tan said the fact that doctors were leaving the Philippines was not a new trend.

"Since the 1970s the Philippines has been a major source for health professionals fo many countries," he said.

"The only difference today is that doctor are retraining as nurses. For many doctors it i the easiest and quickest way out."

Many developed countries have less stringent conditions for accepting Filipino nurse than they do for doctors.

This year the government set aside just 1.1 percent of its national budget on health. Th World Health Organization's advised minimum is five percent.

By comparison Vietnam spent 4.5 percen of its national budget on health in 2002, th last year for which figures are available, whil Thailand spent 7.6 percent last year. *AF*

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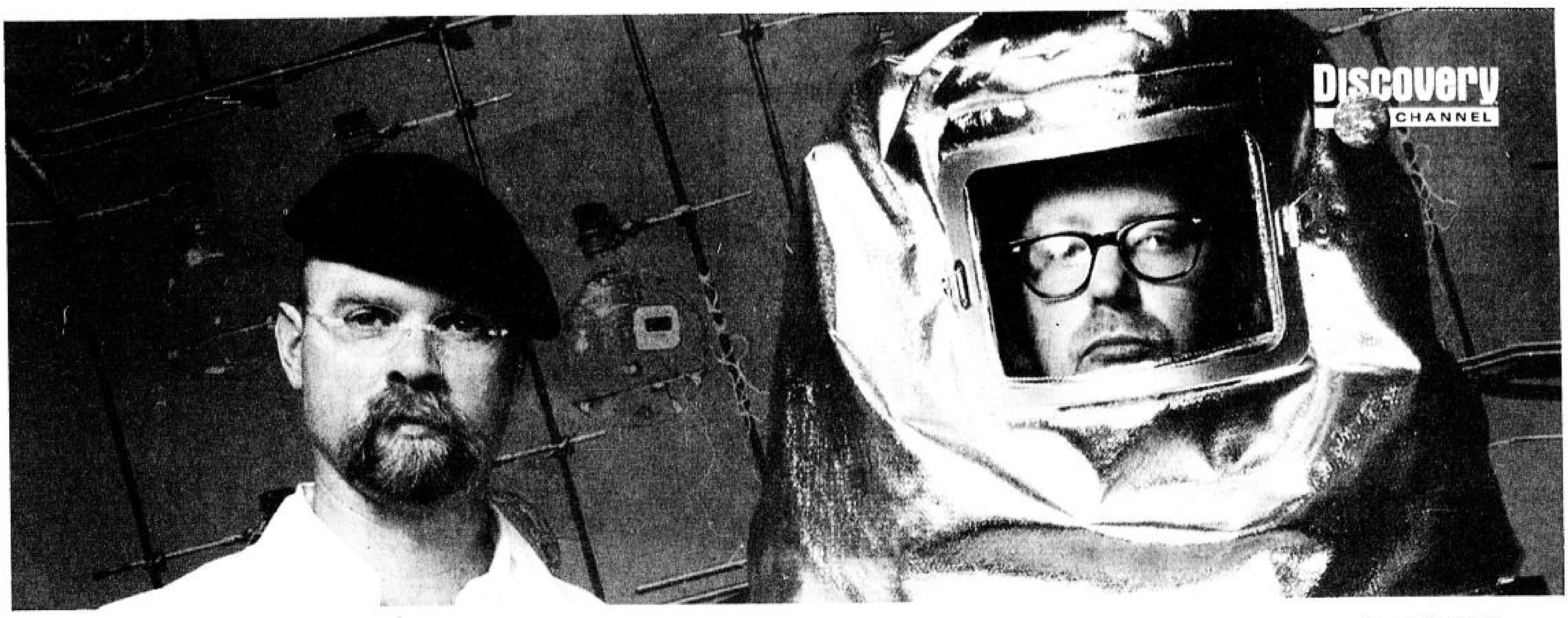

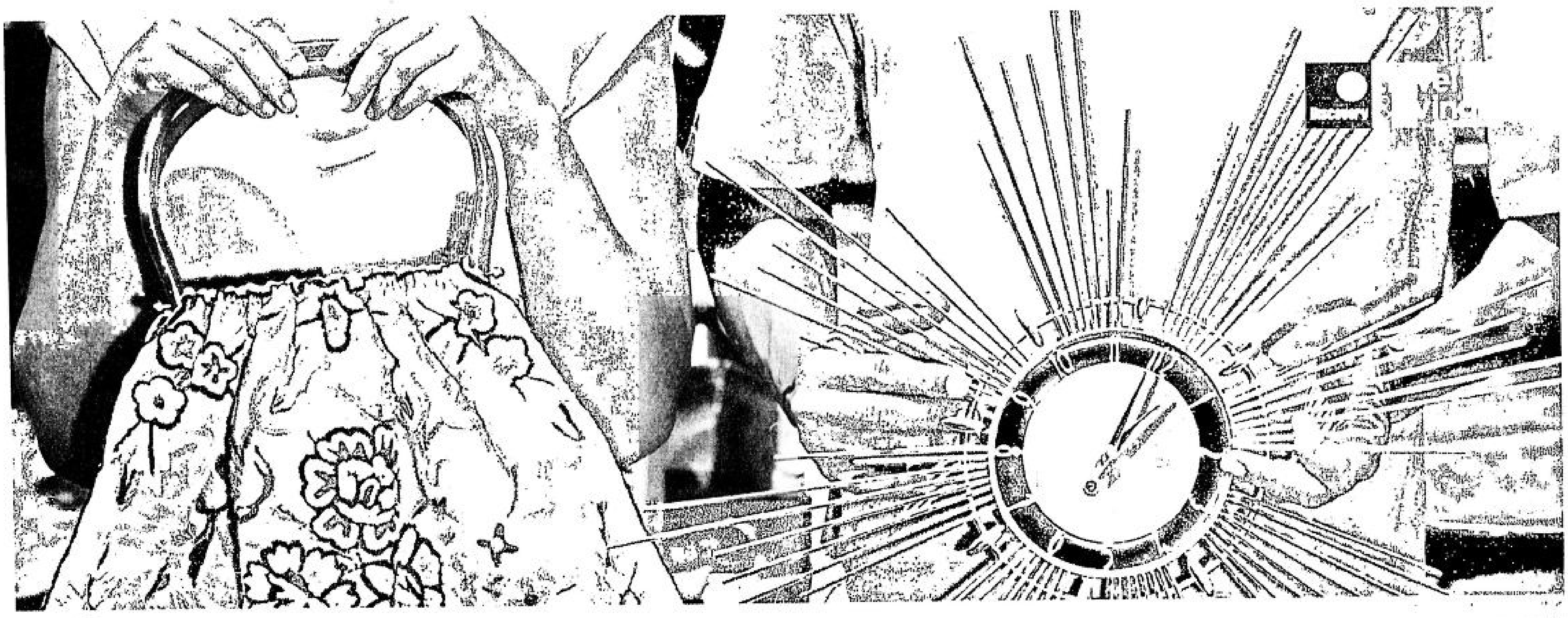

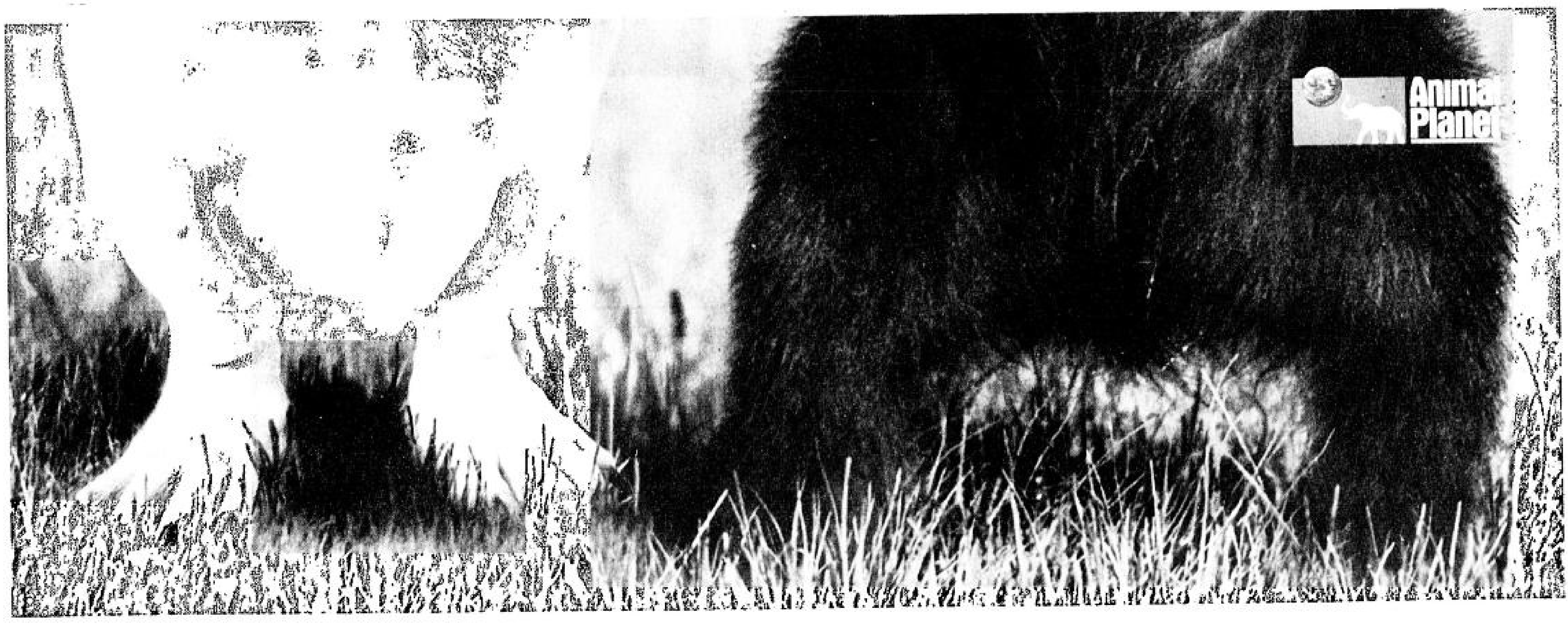

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Truck driver dies in Iraq

By Nikko Dizon

A FILIPINO TRUCK DRIVER IS the latest casualty in Iraq, following the deaths of two others in bombings last week.

The worker was identified as Alexander Mesa Ilocto, 36, of Valenzuela City. He was killed in a vehicular accident on Nov. 18, Ambassador Roy Cimatu, chair of the Presidential Middle East Preparedness Committee, told reporters yesterday.

Cimatu said that Ilocto died on the spot after his truck turned turtle along a highway connecting Iraq and Kuwait.

Ilocto was apparently on his way back to Kuwait after delivering supplies in Iraq.

Cimatu said that Ilocto, employed by PNC Logistics, was a documented worker but his employment was supposed to be limited to Kuwait.

"I really don't know how our Filipino workers are able to enter from Kuwait when we have a strict travel ban to Iraq. This travel ban is being adhered to in Jordan," Cimatu said.

He added that he received information that truck drivers are being offered as much as $5,000 to drive into Iraq.

'Garci' spotted in Mindanao, says Ping

By Leila B. Salaverria and TJ Burgonio

WELL PAST ITS DEADLINE, THE FACT-FINDING committee investigating the disappearance of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano will come out with its report this week, even as Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Garcillano had been spotted in Mindanao.

"He's either in Marawi or Bukidnon. There's a report he has come back, I just didn't establish the date. Even his wife has been seen in these areas. There are witness accounts that they are there," Lacson told reporters.

Fact-finding committee member Edgardo Mendoza, Bureau of Immigration regulation chief, said yesterday a panel member had begun drafting the group's report which should be ready in one or two days.

But the five-man investigating panel, composed of justice and immigration officials, will not be revealing the contents of its report to the public. Instead, the report will be submitted to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Mendoza said.

"It will be up to the secretary to reveal our findings to the public," he said in a phone interview.

Garcillano supposedly fled to Singapore on July 14 on a chartered jet. The immigration bureau, however, had no record of his departure.

Garcillano is believed to be the man President Macapagal-Arroyo was talking to in wiretapped mobile phone conversations that hinted of cheating in the May 2004 elections. He disappeared after audio tapes and CDs of the conversations came out in June.

The fact-finding committee's report is coming out more than a month after its deadline.

The committee, which had been given 30 days to do its work and come out with a report, held its first hearing on Aug. 26.

When asked the reason for the delay, Mendoza said this would be answered in the report.

The fact-finding committee was headed by its chair Senior State Prosecutor Emily de los Santos. Its members, aside from Mendoza, were immigration executive director Roy Almoro, vice chair, and State Prosecutors Lourdes Zapanta and Olivia Non.

At the Senate hearing on the Department of Justice's 2006 budget, Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez said the agency had no record of Garcillano's return.

"Our records show he has not reentered the Philippines through our regular international ports of exit and entry," Fernandez told the senators.

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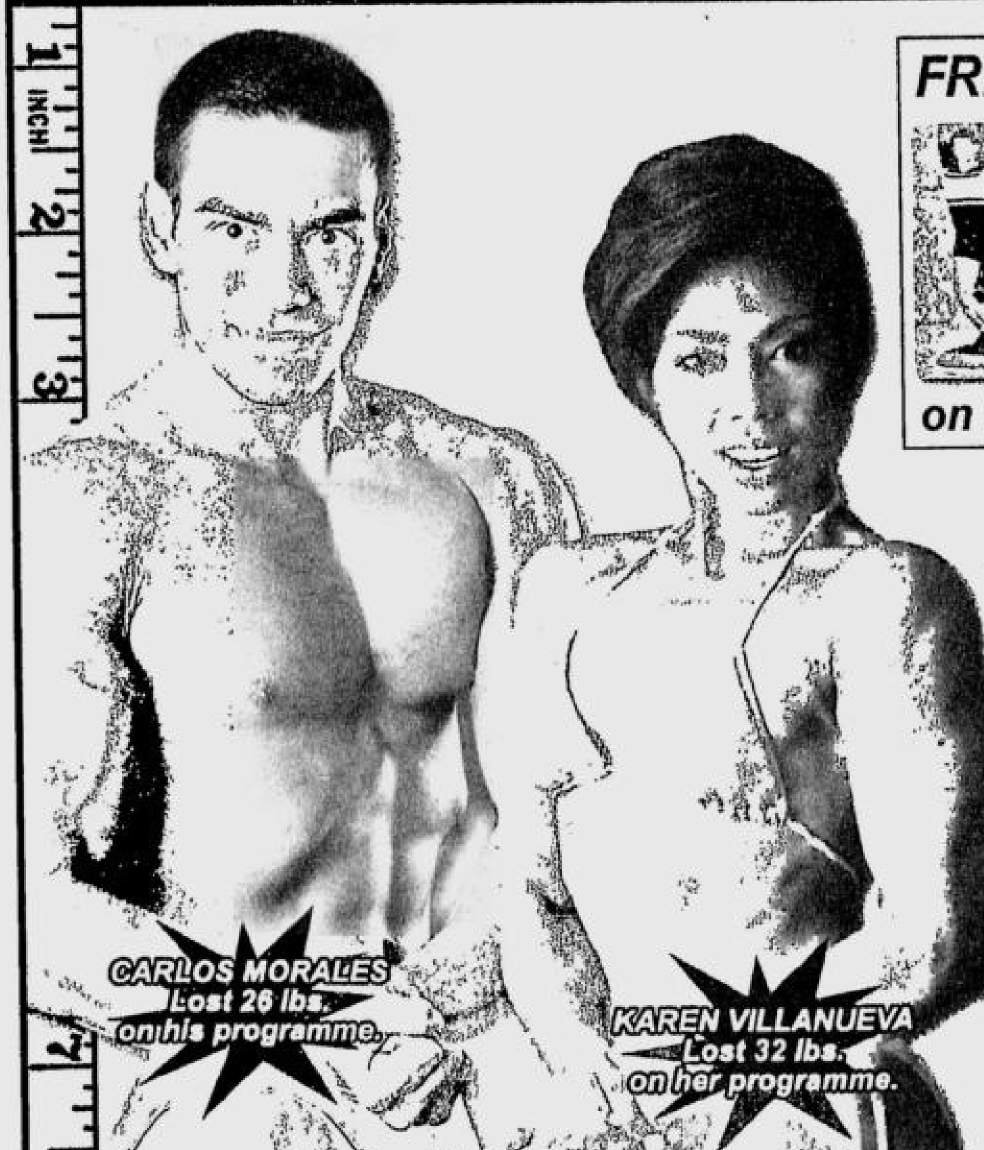
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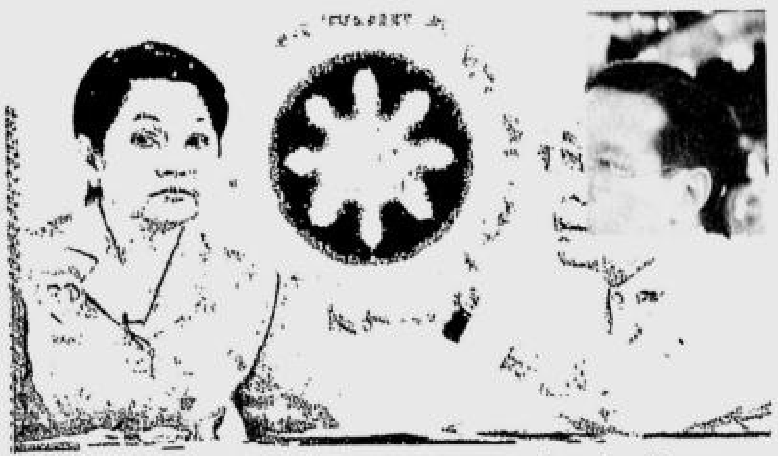


PRESIDENT Arroyo listens to Health Secretary Francisco Duque during a live talk on bird flu prevention. LYN RILLON

58% want GMA to quit

From page A1

"A majority of Filipinos continue to favor the President's resignation because they distrust her and believe that the 2004 presidential election was rigged," Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia executive director, said in a statement.

"Half of Filipinos (52 percent) continue to believe that the President did not win the 2004 elections fairly, while nearly 30 percent are undecided on the matter. Seventeen percent believe that she won it fairly and without cheating," Tabunda said.

Malacañang downplayed the results of the survey. "President Arroyo is not so much concerned with her rise and fall in surveys as she is with the rise and fall in food prices and employment rate," said Rene Velasco, director general of the Philippine Information Agency.

"The former is an issue of popularity, while the latter is bread and butter for our people," he said.

Tabunda said Pulse Asia undertook the survey "on its own without any party singularly commissioning the research effort."

Policy on protests

The nationwide survey of 1,200 people (18 years old and above) was conducted on Oct. 15-27, at the height of the controversy over Ms Arroyo's tough policy against street protests and her ban on bureaucrats attending congressional inquiries without her permission.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.

While the majority favored the President's exit, four in 10 felt a coup by the military and police would be "most inimical to the people's well-being."

Two Philippine leaders have been overthrown by popular uprisings—dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001—and there have been at least a dozen coup attempts in the last 19 years.

Ms Arroyo, who took over the presidency after Estrada was ousted, has been embroiled in a crisis since June over allegations she cheated her way to victory in last year's election and members of her family took kickbacks from illegal gambling operations.

The President, who denies any wrongdoing, weathered an impeachment attempt in September when the motion was quashed by a majority of her supporters in the House of Representatives.

Middle class

Ms Arroyo's opponents are pressing their case that she quit, but analysts see little sign of the anger among the middle class that fueled the "people power" revolts against Marcos and Estrada.

"There is still no definitive agreement among Filipinos on the matter of the best individual to lead the Philippines at present," Tabunda said in the statement.

Three names emerged—Vice President Noli de Castro, Estrada and Panfilo Lacson, an opposition senator.

While De Castro topped the list, his support fell from a high of 30 percent in June to 19 percent in October, Pulse Asia said. Estrada had 14 percent and Lacson 13 percent.

Ms Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos emerged as those least acceptable to lead the country. *With reports from Reuters and Christine Avendaño*

Google bombers attack GMA website

ENTER THE WORDS "*PEKENG pangulo*" (fake president) on your Google browser, and you'll get a surprising, if mildly subversive result: The website of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Try typing "*sinungaling*" (liar), and the browser will direct you to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's profile.

The President and her trusted men have just become the latest subjects—or victims—of "Google bombing," a trick used to manipulate the results yielded by search engines.

An Internet-savvy group of young militants has succeeded in making Ms Arroyo's website, http://www.kgma.org, the answer to a search for "*pekeng pangulo*" on popular search engines like Google or Yahoo!

The militant Youth Demanding Arroyo's Removal (Youth Dare) yesterday declared a success its online campaign to Google bomb the websites of the President, as well as those of her ardent defenders.

A query for "*sira-ulo*" (fool), for instance, will take one to the official website of the Department of Justice (http://www.doj.gov.ph), presumably a slur on Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Pimp

A search fot "*bugaw*" (pimp), on the other hand, will show a link to the personal information page of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales on http://www.i-site.ph, the online databank of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

Finally, typing "*sinungaling*" on the browser will lead to Bunye's profile on the Office of the President website (http://www.op.gov.ph).

Google bombing the President's website, as well as that of her subordinates, is just one of the many ways Internet users can express their dissent against what they believe to be a fake presidency, said the group's spokesperson Raymond Palatino.

Denizens of the worldwide web have not had enough of the "Hello Garci" controversy, despite the junking of the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo in September, he said in a statement.

"During Edsa Dos, we had text messaging. Now we use the blogosphere and the Internet as mechanisms to reach other people and unite in various issues," he said.

Young radicals

The Google bombing was a joint project of Youth Dare and the "young radicals" Internet blog, said Anakbayan media officer Sarah Katrina Maramag.

The group got the idea from Internet activists in the United States who linked the search words "miserable failure" to the official biography of George W. Bush on the White House website, Palatino said.

However, it was not the first Google bomb on a Filipino public figure. In April 2004, the late actor and defeated presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr. himself became the subject of a Google bomb. The search words "*bangungot ng bayan*" (the nation's nightmare) directed one to the Freedom, Peace and Justice Movement website, which showed Poe's picture with supporters.

A Google bomb is an attempt to influence the ranking of a given page in results returned by the Google search engine.

A page will be ranked higher on Google if the sites that link to that page all use consistent anchor text, or the text used in the link. A Google bomb is created if many sites link to a page by using a certain phrase.

If that phrase is entered on the browser, the page to which the most number of websites or blogs are linked using that phrase will appear.

Youth Dare and its member organizations are planning to come out with other creative online activities and projects, such as "Hello Garci" computer games, Palatino said.

GMA foes on misspelled name: The joke's on her

From page A1

criminal law textbook, "*a rovo de la cuadrilla*" meant "robbery in band."

Another variant of the word, "*dorobou*," is used to describe a thief, burglar or robber in Japanese, according to Laguna Rep. Benjamin Agarao. "It's a national joke."

The mistake was lamentable because it was too glaring to be overlooked by monetary officials, Agarao said.

The central bank has apologized to the President. Less than P100,000 of the P100 bills is currently in circulation, according to BSP officials. The BSP said the bills were legal tender.

Constant reminder

After discovering the error, the BSP withheld the release of the remaining bills with the misspelled name of the President.

"A simple 'I'm sorry' should not make this a closed book," Suplico said.

The lawmakers suspected that the heavens might be conspiring against Ms Arroyo because the circulation of the newly minted bill would be a constant reminder to the people of the "cheating, lying and stealing" charges hurled against her in connection with alleged ballot fixing in 2004.

Despite revelations that she had talked with an election official several times at the height of the canvassing of votes last year, Ms Arroyo escaped an impeachment attempt in September this year owing to the numerical superiority of her allies in the House. The President has denied any wrongdoing.

Ms Arroyo on P200 bill

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, who led the proimpeachment group, has preferred not to cast aspersions on the Malacañang occupant in this latest blunder. But since it involved legal tender, monetary officials should take the blame for negligence, he said.

"It's the second time during the incumbency of Ms Arroyo that the circulation of a legal tender had been criticized.

About two years ago, the BSP came out with P200 bills bearing the picture of Ms Arroyo while she was being sworn in by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. during the final moments of the second "people power" revolt. The likeness of her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, was printed on the other side of the note.

National heroes

Critics said that since the country was not being ruled by a monarchy, pictures appearing on the legal tender should be reserved for national heroes to preserve their memories.

The BSP is still determining whether the error was due to a lapse in internal quality control or the foreign contractor's fault.

"We're forming a group to investigate what happened," BSP Deputy Governor Armando Suratos said.

"We have to determine who is responsible. If the printer is responsible, they will have a liability," he said.

He said the incident was "an opportunity for us to improve our quality control."

A revamp among the officers of the BSP's bank notes security department shall be among the reform initiatives, he said.

Last-minute adjustments

Suratos said last-minute adjustments were made to enhance the font used for the new P100 bills, which likely resulted in the error.

He noted that the European contractor selected for the printing job through a public bidding was a reputable, established entity that rendered similar services to the BSP last year.

The BSP is willing to replace the bills containing the misspelled surname.

Suratos agreed with observations that the bills could become a collector's item. "It's the rarity that drives up the price."

"It's only the first shipment. The forthcoming shipment will be enough to meet the requirement for Christmas," Suratos said.

Grand Dame ready for another facelift

From page A1

venue for the masses.

"We must make culture available ... [and] attractive to the masses," Ms Arroyo said.

"I don't think the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) will serve this purpose because it is imposing, unapproachable and elitist. The one that the poor will find approachable physically and psychologically is the Met and I feel we should revive it," she said.

Curiously, the Arroyo administration's goal of pro-poor and people-oriented programs for the soon-to-be restored Met were the same as former first lady and Metro Manila governor Imelda Marcos' when she pushed for the Met's 1978 renovation.

"This theater is dedicated to a singular goal: To surface the true, the good and the beautiful in the Filipino in Metropolitan Manila," Marcos said in her message for the 1978 reopening.

NCCA supervision

Under the 2004 tripartite agreement, the NCCA, GSIS and City Hall would put together their resources to spearhead the restoration of the Met to its former grandeur befitting the country's center of the arts and culture for the masses.

The GSIS, as owner of the 7.6-hectare lot where the Met stands, turned over to City Hall the property, except for the commercial spaces. Under the agreement, the GSIS recognized the fact that as a social security institution, it could not operate, maintain and preserve the Met.

For its part, the City Hall of Manila committed to spearhead the enhancement and improvement not only of the Met's physical structure, but also its cultural and historical significance. It would also construct or improve the Met's music halls, actor's studio, conference and lecture rooms, library, museum, multi-purpose hall or ballroom, toilets rooms and parking areas.

However, City Hall was tasked to conduct the restoration of the Met in accordance with the internationally accepted standards of conservation that the NCCA shall provide.

Restoring the theater

How the Met's restoration should proceed and how long it would take depends on the cooperation of the three agencies.

Lawyer Rose Beatrix "Trixie" Angeles, NCCA commissioner in charge of national heritage sites, said the agency's plan was to restore the Met, as much a possible, to the 1978 version. The lead architect then was Otillo Arellano, nephew of the building's original architect in 1931, Juan Arellano.

But before the restoration work could begin, the three agencies needed to agree on the WAP. This was when the delays started.

Angeles said some people in City Hall thought that the NCCA would simply turn over the P50 million to the city government, leaving the bidding and the construction work to City Hall.

The commissioner stressed that the agreement stated that the rehabilitation was to be a collaborative work of the three agencies.

She added that the NCCA had a mandate to make sure that its funds were used properly in the restoration, which should be done in accordance with the internationally accepted standards set by the International Council for Monuments and Sites (Icomos).

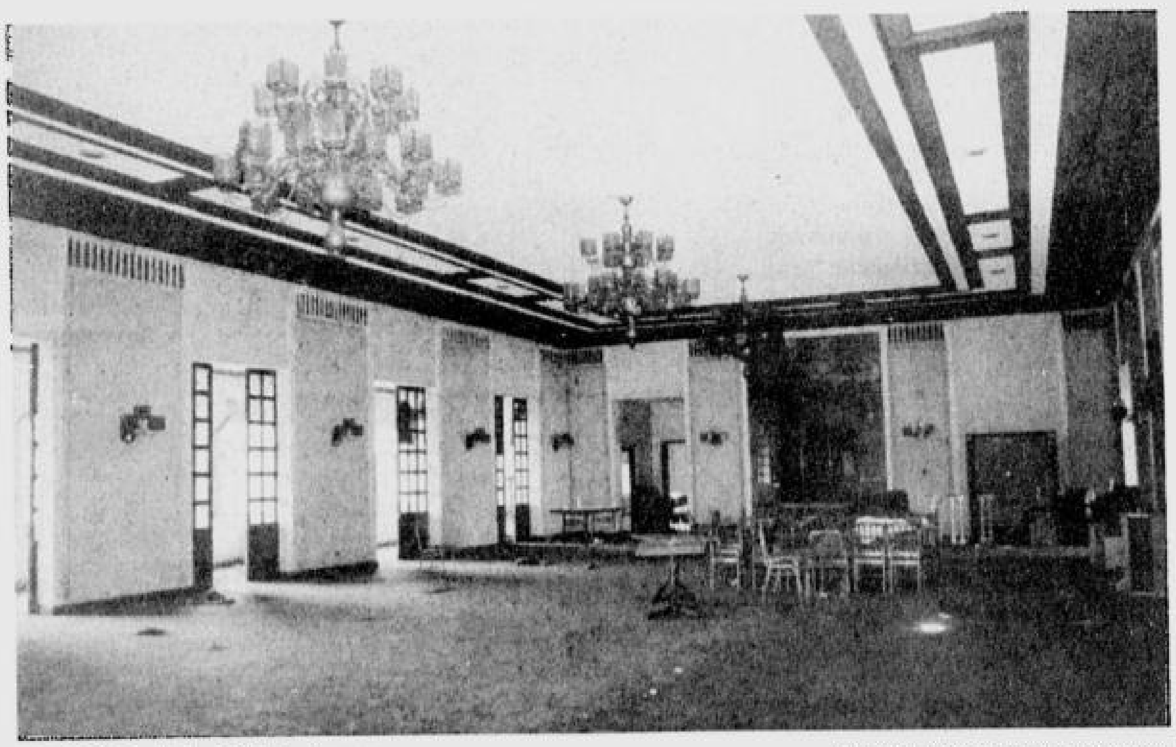
The Paris-based Icomos is one of Unesco's two world heritage monitoring arms.

Objections and revisions

The Met Conservation Committee, which is chaired by Manila Mayor Atienza, is composed of another representative from the city, two from the GSIS and two from the NCCA.

After the 2004 elections, the NCCA conducted a feasibility study, which included the inspection of the property and the preparation of pertinent documents.

In September the same year, the NCCA came up with the WAP. Angeles said that while the GSIS agreed with the WAP the following month, the City of Manila kept returning the draft to the NCCA for various objections and revisions.



INTERIOR of The Met's ballroom. RICHARD TUASON-SANCHEZ BAUTISTA/NCCA

It was only in April 2005, "after much persuasion" that the NCCA was able to get City Hall to agree to the WAP, Angeles said.

Personally, however, the commissioner said she thought the contracts with City Hall were "strange" because by law, it's the NCCA—or more particularly, one of its member agencies, the National Historical Institute (NHI)—that should conduct the restoration of landmarks.

Atienza's track record

"The restoration is being turned over to a non-expert ... so we have to ensure that City Hall complies with the highest standards of conservation," she said, recalling that the Manila city government "does not exactly rank high" among conservationists and heritage-savers.

Angeles was referring to Atienza's disagreements with the NCCA, the NHI, the National Museum and other government agencies and private groups on the preservation of "culturally significant" sites, such as the Jai-Alai Building, Mehan Garden, Arroceros Forest Park, the Paco and Tutuban train stations, and the San Lazaro race track.

The commissioner also said that people should not be suspicious or impatient if they don't see any actual construction work at the Met just yet.

"Everything has to be in order ... we want to be as close to the original as possible. We'll make sure that much of the original remains there for the next generations to appreciate," Angeles said.

Research work

The commissioner recounted that in the ongoing restoration work for the Montpelier estate of US President James Madison in Orange, Virginia, the research alone took two years, during which the building was not touched. The estate, which changed hands twice, would be restored to its 1820s version.

The seven-year restoration employed, not just researchers, but also assorted craftsmen, architects and even archaeologists.

"We do move slowly, yes, but the rewards will last longer. We want to restore the Met and make it usable. We want to make it sturdy so it will remain a symbol for a long, long time," Angeles explained.

She said the P50 million that would be given to City Hall was also subject to government regulations on spending and auditing. The amount was not nearly enough for the Met's complete restoration, which was estimated to be P200 million.

The NCCA released an initial P15 million, of which P1 million was earmarked for the full documentation of the Met.

Another P4 million was set for the detailed engineering study (DES), the contract for which was awarded to Schema Konsult Inc., a Pasig City-based engineering, planning and project management consultancy firm.

Old meets new

The remaining P10 million would be released to City Hall for the restoration of the theater roof, which is a primary concern. Also in the priority list are: raising the floor from floodwaters and checking the electrical system.

Angeles said the NCCA also wanted to conduct "a deeper investigation of the structure, to find out exactly what changes were made between the 1930s and the 1978 structure."

"If you go in without a plan, you could lose architectural details and designs, and technological innovations that we might not have seen," she explained.

Architecture scholar Edson Cabalfin said the culture expressed in the architectural style of a building constructed in a particular era is often the product of "intermingling and hybridization of cultures."

Nationalists may point out that the Art Deco style of the Met was something foreign and forced upon by American colonizers. Not so, according to Cabalfin, author of a critical historiography of the Philippine Art Deco from 1927 to 1941.

He said the Met and the other Art Deco buildings served as expressions of the Filipino struggle for identity—one that would blend Filipino, Asian, Spanish and American influences.

Met as symbol

"[A]s much as Art Deco is seen as the seeming 'infiltration' of a foreign agent in another culture, the style can also be read as the means an 'infiltrated' culture adapts and responds to an outside power," Cabalfin explained.

Philippine Art Deco then, he added, can be understood as "the dynamics of the imposition of power by the colonizer and the demonstration of resistance and empowerment of the colonized."

Angeles said the NCCA realized that its reputation was at stake with the Met restoration project.

"The Met is more than a theater. It is a symbol. If we screw up this one, we'll never live it down. We'll become known as the agency that ruined the Met. The people may forget the City of Manila or GSIS, but they will not forget the NCCA because this [restoration] is our mandate," she said.

Soldiers raid Leyte village

From page A1

where it happened was not populated by members or supporters of the NPA.

"That barangay has been identified as an agrarian reform community. That is why I was surprised when I was informed that the military tagged it as an encounter," the mayor said.

The military also captured eight suspected rebels whom they turned over to the Palo police for custody, police chief Insp. Rito Pacanan said.

The military said it recovered four revolvers, two homemade shotguns, a carbine, a pair of binoculars, two hand-held radios and subversive documents.

Sprayed with bullets

The incident occurred around 5 a.m. in a village of coconut plantations and rice fields, about 8 km from the Palo town proper.

More than 40 farmers and members of the leftist group Bayan Muna were inside a small hut when about 20 soldiers arrived and sprayed them with bullets, according to Diana Ragub, regional spokesperson of the Samahan han mga Gugti ng mga Parag-uma (Sagupa)-Eastern Visayas.

She said several people were hit while others scampered for safety. Some were picked up by the soldiers.

"These farmers were supposed to start their first day of tilling the lands given to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform as farmer-beneficiaries," Ragub said.

Not rebels

She said that while a majority of the farmers were members of Bayan Muna, it was not true that they were NPA rebels as claimed by the military.

Ragub claimed the firearms and subversive documents recovered from the hut were "planted by the military to make it appear that it was an encounter and not a massacre of innocent civilians."

"By far, this was the biggest killing incident in a single day involving civilians in the region," she added.

But Col. Pablo Fernando, commanding officer of the 802nd Infantry Battalion, maintained the victims were "active members of the NPA."

'It was an encounter'

"It was an encounter between them and my soldiers. They (the soldiers) were acting on information that there was a group of armed individuals within the vicinity," he told the INQUIRER on the phone.

Fernando said two squads composed of 19 soldiers from the 19th Infantry Brigade were approaching a small hut when they were fired upon.

"We just responded," he said.

The shooting lasted about 45 minutes.

The 19th Infantry Brigade is part of the 802nd Infantry Battalion based in Leyte.

But Joel Arcillo, secretary general of Bayan Muna in Palo, denied Fernando's claim, saying what happened was "a strafing and a massacre."

'Balik uma'

He said the farmers and Bayan Muna members had gathered in the village for a *"balik uma"* (returning to the farm) event, in which the farmers would "possess" the land awarded to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

"They were there already last night and were to plant this morning," he added.

Arcillo said they even invited the media to cover the event and had informed the village chief about their activity.

But Enrique Granados, provincial agrarian reform officer, told the INQUIRER that although they had identified some farmers in San Agustin as land beneficiaries, the DAR had yet to turn over to the farmers their individual certificates of land ownership (Cloa).

The individual Cloas have yet to be distributed because the "mother Cloa" was burned in a fire that hit the provincial Register of Deeds office in 1993, he added.

He said the reconstitution of the mother Cloa was not yet finished.

Rival claimants

Granados said another farmers group had claimed ownership of the land and filed a case now before DAR adjudication board.

Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam, spokesperson of the Armed Forces Central Command, said reports received by Centcom showed that the alleged rebels were in the village to recruit new members.

"If they were farmers, how come our men were able to recover firearms and not farming equipment from them?" he asked.

The village, with a population of more than 930 families, is one of the most peaceful in the town, Mayor Sevilla said.

Nestor Nirza, spokesperson of Bayan Muna-Eastern Visayas, identified the fatalities as Bernabe Borra Jr., Eric Nogal, Eufemia Barbosa, Ruel Objias, Perlito Borra, Jerry Almerino and Alma Bartolini, who was seven months pregnant.

He said the 10 wounded were Ramy Cumpio, 36; Mark Pansa, 23; Ferdinand Montejos, 25; Danilo Orcida 42; Ismael Regorato, 22; Bernabe Bora, 36 and son Berlito, 20; Richard Morgallo, 30; Timbo Capatoy and Christopher Vargas, 21.

Nirza said that except for Boras, the other nine suffered bullet wounds as well as hack wounds.

Dr. Nestor Vilches said all 10 were now in "stable condition." *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Widows wail as Ka Roger...

From page A1

lorente, was among the nine soldiers killed by land mines in Iloilo on Saturday.

The rebel spokesperson was Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, who said the string of New People's Army attacks the past two weeks in Iloilo and six other areas around the country were a victory over President Macapagal-Arroyo's "fascist" army.

Rosal also defended the NPA use of what he said was a type of land mine not banned by war conventions.

Twenty-three other soldiers were wounded in the Iloilo ambush.

"My husband is innocent and he did nothing wrong," Rosemarie said.

After spending 23 years fighting Moro separatists and communist insurgents, Sergeant Billorente, 48, had looked forward to retirement and to spending more time with his family.

He had planned to invest his retirement pay in a business or use the money to buy a passenger jeepney.

God's will

Billorente was set to retire from the service in December next year, along with Staff Sergeants Alexander Luis and Melquidez Montemayor, who were also killed.

"He had been in many encounters and ambushes in Mindanao but no one among his unit had been wounded or killed. I never expected him to be killed here," said Rosemarie, 46, who now has to take care of their daughters, aged 26 and 21.

"I do not know what to do now but we should accept it because it's God's will," she told the INQUIRER at the St. Therese Memorial Chapel where the remains of the fatalities lay.

Last meeting

The Billorentes last saw each other on Friday, a day before the ambush, when Rosemarie went to the 47th Infantry Battalion headquarters in Calinog town to get his Christmas bonus of P7,800.

Billorente had asked her to buy a ring for daughter Dailyn, who passed the nursing board examination last month.

"He wanted me to keep it a secret until he came home," Rosemarie said.

She picked a P40,000 coffin for her husband over the plain white box worth P10,000 paid for by the Army.

"I will look for the extra P30,000 because he deserves more for laying down his life," said Rosemarie.

Sergeant Luis' widow, Marilou, 35, spoke of her own pain.

"He was a good provider, husband and father and was sincere in his work. That's why it's so painful," she said. The sergeant left behind five children aged 6 to 18.

She said Luis, 42, was excited about retiring because it meant being with his children, who were doing well in school.

"It hurts me to think that I would be going up the stage alone to pin the medals and ribbons on our children," Marilou said.

'String of victories'

From his hideout, Rosal cited successful NPA tactical offensives in Panay, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Batangas, Camarines Sur, Bukidnon and Davao del Sur.

"The Filipino people celebrate the NPA's string of victories over the detested fascist and mercenary armed troops of the Arroyo regime," the Communist Party spokesperson said in a statement.

Responding to military accusations that the NPA use of land mines violated international rules of war, Rosal claimed the Armed Forces was ignorant of international conventions.

"What is prohibited is the use of victim-triggered land mines. There are no prohibitions against command-detonated land mines which the NPA uses as a precision and responsible weapon against military targets," he said.

Different landmines

He called the military hypocrites and claimed that the successful guerrilla offensives showed the widespread support of the masses for revolutionary armed struggle.

"The AFP seeks only to cover up its criminal use of more powerful and destructive weapons," he said.

Rosal denied that the NPA was using the kind of land mines banned by the Geneva Convention.

"What our Red fighters have been using were command-detonated land mines aimed at specific and legitimate military targets such as enemy vehicles of war," he said.

"They are different from the booby trap form of land mines, which is victim-detonated. That's the kind that was prohibited under the UN Geneva Convention on articles of war," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

World War-II vintage

He said the NPA got the materials for making improvised land mines from World War II-vintage bombs found by fishermen and treasure hunters.

"They sell the Japanese bombs and the NPA is one of the buyers of these old bombs. The Japanese bomb is still good," he said.

Controlling his laughter, he said: "Why would the NPA not resort to improvising land mines? What we've been conducting is guerrilla warfare. It's our weapons against the superior war machinery of the enemy, like tanks and APC."

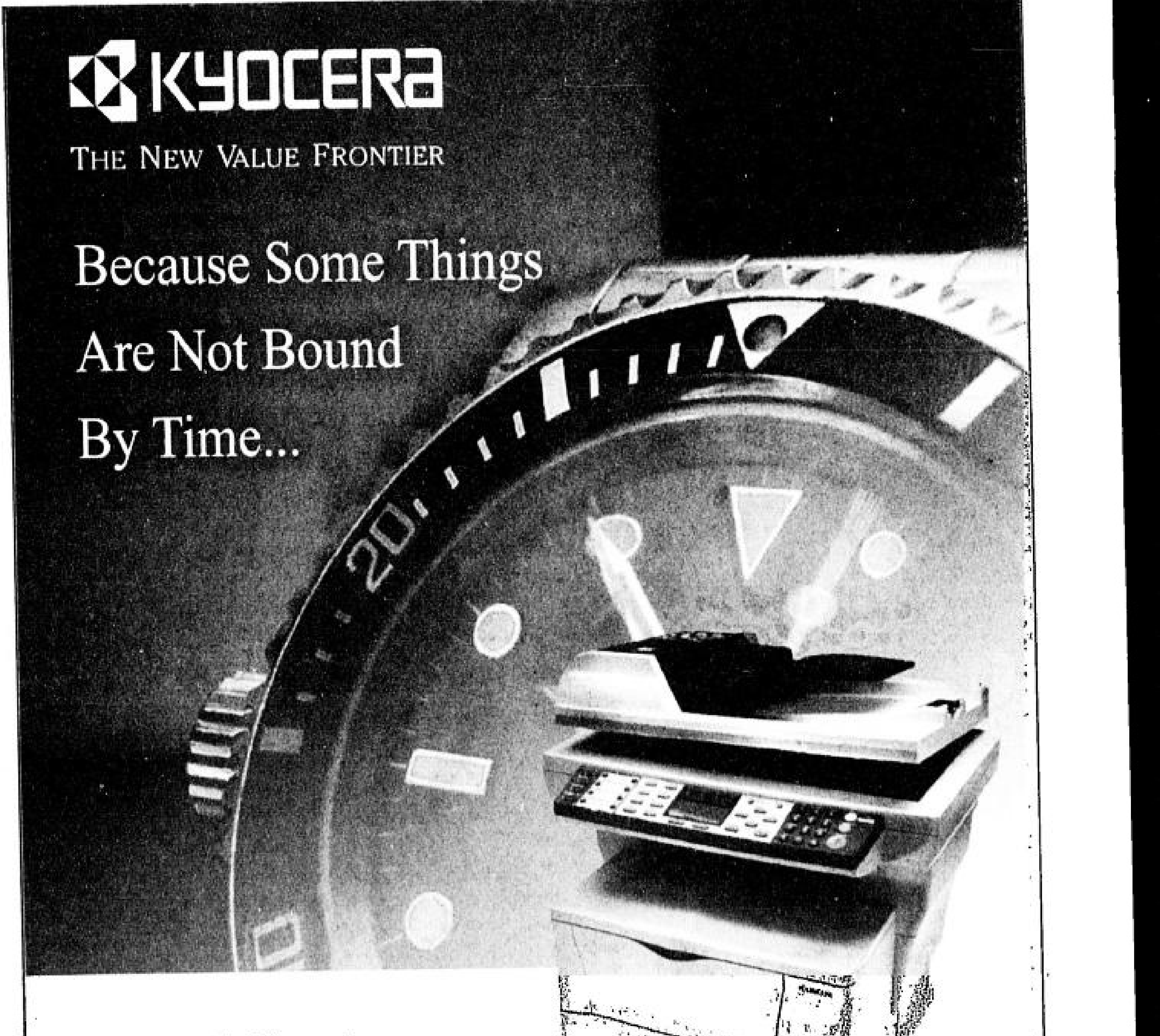
Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar in Lucena City, slammed Rosal's assertion that the rebels were not using banned land mines.

"The NPA is again peddling lies and deceit. They have been using banned land mines and are still using it, endangering the lives of innocent civilians just to advance their terroristic pursuit," Cabuay said.

Malacañang said the ambush showed why the communist rebels "fully" deserved to be called terrorists by the international community.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the NPA had shown its true colors and added that government forces needed to be vigilant,

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "The President extends her sympathies to the families of the soldiers who died as heroes in our fight against communist terrorists." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila and Felipe V. Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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Political killings escalate

• From page A1

Rodolfo Salas, chief of a government management team working with cooperatives. His wife and child were unhurt.

Salas, former chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is taking care of the victim's traumatized wife and son.

Arcilla was the 60th Bayan member killed this year.

Also yesterday, police said the bodies of Maribel Supera, 27, former president of the left-wing League of Filipino Students in the Central Luzon State University, and her husband Danilo, 32, were found in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija.

The remains of the couple were stuffed in two sacks dumped in a farm at Sitio Tumana, Barangay Palestina, 26 days after they were reported to have been abducted by armed men.

The woman, who was pregnant, had two bullet wounds in the head while her husband had one. Both had been hogtied and their mouths covered with masking tape.

Since 2001, at least 86 members of militant groups have been killed in apparent politically motivated killings.

Motive not known

Supt. Renilo Bamba, Cabuyao police chief, said Ramos was about to cross the street when he was waylaid by the assailants armed with a .38-cal. revolver.

Ramos, of Barangay San Juan, Calamba, Laguna, died from bullet wounds in the neck and right cheek. A bullet pierced his right eye, Bamba said.

He said police still had no motive for the slaying, but a local journalist who was a close friend of Ramos said hawkers selling pirated compact disks could be responsible. Police recently raided the area and seized 257 sacks of CDs worth P4 million.

"Maybe they thought it was Ramos who tipped off the police," said the journalist, who requested anonymity.

A day earlier, Ramos nearly had a fistfight with the vendors after he reportedly rebuked them for selling pirated CDs.

"Ballpen *lang ang katapat ninyo* (A ballpen would subdue you)," Ramos was quoted as telling them, who were said to have retorted, "*Bala lang ang katapat mo* (A bullet would fell you)."

Justice sought

Cecilia Ramos, 45, the victim's widow, said she had no idea who wanted her husband dead. She said her husband was very discreet about his work.

"He kept the nature of his job from his family," Cecilia told the INQUIRER at the wake of her husband at the Rizal Memorial Chapel in Calamba.

"He was very easy to talk with. That's why I'm wondering why they had to kill him. This is really painful for me. All we want now is justice for Robby," she said.

Ramos' children—daughter Charmaine, 12, and son Russel, 11—said they were very angry at whoever ordered the killing of their father.

Archie Gaddang, Katapat publisher, said that two weeks ago, Ramos confided to him that he had received death threats through text messages and calls from unidentified persons on his mobile phone.

RAMOS

Gaddang said he advised Ramos "to slow down on his hard-hitting columns" on illegal gambling activities and prostitution in the Laguna towns of San Pedro, Biñan, Sta. Rosa and Cabuyao, and Calamba.

Gaddang said the operations of video *karera* and fruit game machines, which were being played like slot machines in casinos, were a staple of Ramos' column, Patrol Watch.

"I also told him to file a complaint with the police. I don't know though if he had filed one," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Bottle-throwing incident

On Sept. 28, Ramos figured in a bottle-throwing incident involving Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro.

Ramos, who was then covering the session of the provincial council at the capitol building in Sta. Cruz town, reportedly caught the ire of Lazaro after he took photographs while she was talking to some board members.

The session had been suspended after two board members walked out during a debate on a multimillion-peso bond flotation that Lazaro was ardently pushing.

All of a sudden, an irate Lazaro threw an empty plastic bottle of mineral water at Ramos.

The following day, Lazaro made a public apology over a local radio station in Calamba before flying off to Rome, Italy.

Cecilia said her husband had told her about the incident. She said she berated her husband after he decided not to write about the issue in his column.

Asked if the bottle-throwing incident would be included in the police investigation, Bamba said: "I really have no idea about that issue. But we will be looking at all possible motives in the killing."

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Lazaro on her mobile phone. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora in Manila*

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Journalists in violent settings learn ...

From page A1

headquarters in the Dutch city of The Hague.

The ICC was created by the 1998 Rome Statute, a treaty that has been ratified by 100 countries. The European Union has ratified it, but repressive regimes have not, along with the United States, China, Japan, Israel and the Philippines.

The ICC came into force on July 1, 2002. It could conduct trials on genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. In so doing it could guard against impunity.

Early this year, the United Nations Security Council referred the case of Sudan to the ICC. Hearings are now going on.

RP voted but ...

One of the facts Filipino journalists learned was that the Philippines was among the 120 states that approved and signed the Rome Statute in December 2000.

A second important fact was that the Philippines is not covered by the statute because President Macapagal-Arroyo has not transmitted the ICC document to the Senate for ratification.

The Philippine and Asian Coalitions for the ICC had lobbied hard for the Philippines to become the 100th State Party to the ICC's ratification, but Mexico beat the Philippines to the "magic number." Mexican ratification did not come easy though because it required prolonged debates.

Some Philippine legislators, as well as human rights officials, openly support ratification.

US influence could be a reason for the President's inaction, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. told the gathering.

If the Philippines ratifies the ICC Statute, offenses of US troops who are here as part of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) could be placed under the jurisdiction of the ICC if victims do not get a fair hearing from national courts.

Human Rights Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano said he was for the speedy transmittal of the ICC document to the Senate for ratification.

Journalists from Thailand, Burma, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia also learned about ICC vis-a-vis their respective countries.

Hitlers, Pinochets, Milosevics

The ICC is sometimes confused with the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The ICJ deals primarily with disputes between states, while the ICC has jurisdiction over individuals and their criminal responsibility. The ICC could be a deterrent to the rise of future Hitlers, Pinochets and Milosevics who might otherwise get away with impunity.

"Impunity" or *impunidad* first became a byword in Latin America where dictators thrived while their crimes went unpunished. Impunity is a bad word that has come to symbolize the evil of too much power and might.

According to the Coalition for the ICC, the past century saw the worst violence in history.

In the past 50 years, more than 250 conflicts have erupted around the world. More than 86 million civilians have died in the conflicts and over 170 million have been stripped of their rights, property and dignity. Most of the victims have been forgotten and only a few perpetrators have been brought to justice.

After the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials involving crimes in World War II, the UN General Assembly recognized the need for a permanent mechanism to prosecute mass murderers and war criminals.

Since then, many laws, treaties, conventions and protocols have been written, defining and forbidding everything—from war crimes to poison gas to chemical weapons—yet no system had been put in place to deal with individuals who were criminally responsible.

ICC, the missing link

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has said that "the ICC promises, at last, to supply what has for so long been the missing link in the international legal system: a permanent court to judge the crimes of gravest concern to the international community as a whole—genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes."

The ICC will be different from the ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in that these two tribunals dealt only with crimes committed in those regions during specific periods.

The ICC is a permanent institution capable of addressing the crimes identified in the Rome Statute in an ongoing basis and the world over.

Crimes

Genocide covers those specifically listed in the Statute documents. These are those committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

Crimes against humanity are those committed as part of widespread or systematic attacks directed against any civilian population. Such acts include murder, extermination, rape, sexual slavery, the enforced disappearance of persons and apartheid.

Even included are forced pregnancy and sterilization—acts meant to defile and obliterate ethnic groups.

War crimes cover grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other serious violations of the laws of war, committed in a large scale in international as well as internal armed conflicts.

According to the Coalition for the ICC, the most serious violation of human rights in the past 50 years occurred not during international conflicts but in civil strife within states.

Genocide and crimes against humanity are punishable regardless of whether they are committed in time of peace or of war.

The ICC has established a system of reparation for victims, including restitution, compensation and rehabilitation. Rules of procedures on evidence and details of what constitute these crimes are in the Statute documents.

China and India are widely expected to overtake the United States this century as the biggest economies in the world. Their growth and greater role in the global economy poses a host of challenges and opportunities for ASEAN and the rest of the world.

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GMA party endorses House Cha-cha move

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's political party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino or Kampi, yesterday decided to endorse the move to amend the country's Constitution, ensuring easy passage by the House of Representatives of a resolution converting Congress into a constituent assembly that will draft proposed changes to the 1987 Charter.

"We will work for Cha-cha. We will pursue Cha-cha. We're committed to (passing the) Cha-cha resolution at the earliest possible time," said Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, Kampi's president.

In an interview, Puno said that with Kampi's change of mind, the whole administration coalition in the chamber was now united in pursuing political reforms.

"I think Congress will be largely in favor of (amending the Charter). I agree with Sen. Joker Arroyo that the House will easily get three-fourths of the membership needed to approve the initiative," he said.

Sen. Arroyo said Sunday that that the House could muster the three-fourths vote—177 congressmen—needed to approve the resolution.

Speaker Jose de Venecia expected the plenary to vote Wednesday on the resolution because, he said, the country could not afford to delay any longer the proposed shift to the parliamentary system.

Early last month, Puno himself announced that Kampi had withdrawn support from Charter reform, objecting to the haste with which the so-called Cha-cha express train was being driven in the chamber.

This fueled speculation that Malacañang was at odds with De Venecia after he said that Ms Arroyo had four options during the transition, including cutting short her term in 2007. Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay also came close to challenging De Venecia for the speakership but postponed his bid indefinitely for the "sake of party unity."

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, sponsored Committee Report No. 1065, which endorsed the House Concurrent Resolution No. 26, only last week.

Gloria back home after family vacation in HK

PRESIDENT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo arrived yesterday afternoon from Hong Kong, where she took a brief family vacation after attending the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (Apec) Leaders Meeting in South Korea.

Ms Arroyo was accompanied by her youngest son, Dato, his wife, Kakai, and granddaughter, Eva Victoria on the Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR 301 that touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 at 1:10 p.m.

The President was met at the Naia tarmac, where she was given foyer honors, by Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga and Manila International Airport Authority general manager Alfonso Cusi.

Also on hand to meet her were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and top military and police officials.

Wearing a powder blue pantsuit, the President was all smiles as she walked the red carpet despite the oppressive heat of the midday sun. She thanked Miaa employees who were also on hand to welcome her and shook their hands. *Nikko Dizon*

Velarde in-law oversees privatization of IBC-13

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER BEING NAMED HEAD OF state-owned Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp. (IBC-13), the son-in-law of El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde has taken charge of the privatization committee of the broadcast network Velarde is known to have his eye on.

But Group Head for Government Mass Media and IBC-13 chair Cerge Remonde said he did not see anything wrong with giving new IBC-13 president Mark Allan Jay Yambao, who is married to Velarde's only daughter, a say on how the television and radio network should be privatized.

"Everything will be transparent from the valuation to the public bidding," said Remonde in a text message to the INQUIRER.

He said there should be no conflict of interest in the situation because the Privatization Management Office under the Department of Finance is designated by law to oversee the sale of IBC-13 to private buyers.

In a memorandum reorganizing IBC-13's in-house committees, Yambao appointed himself chair of the nine-member privatization committee with his executive assistant, Melvin L. Cuevas, as vice chair and his trusted aide, Roderick I. Mendoza, as one of the members.

With his son-in-law in control not only of the network but of its privatization committee, observers noted Velarde (whose El Shaddai religious sect is IBC-13's biggest blocktimer) would have an undue advantage in his bid to buy IBC-13 over other interested buyers like the First Pacific group of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan and lead to a smaller sale price for the network.

Yambao's technical assistant, Mendoza, called the INQUIRER to stress that the privatization committee was only interested in protecting the interests of IBC-13.

RP, Spain ink pact vs terror

DEFENSE SECRETARY Avelino Cruz and visiting Spanish Defense Minister Jose Bono have agreed to find ways by which the two countries, which have been victims of terrorist bombings, could broaden cooperation on defense matters, particularly in the fight against terrorism.

Bono is the first defense minister from Spain to visit the country. He arrived Saturday and will leave tonight.

"We have agreed to explore areas where we can further explore cooperation in the areas of information sharing on counterterrorism, exchange of training and education and other matters like material procurement," Cruz said at a joint press conference with Bono at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

"I'm also really grateful for this opportunity to exchange points of view on matters of counterterrorism and the other areas which the secretary has mentioned, areas in which we hope to reinforce the cooperation between our two countries," Bono said through an interpreter.

Dona Pazzibugan

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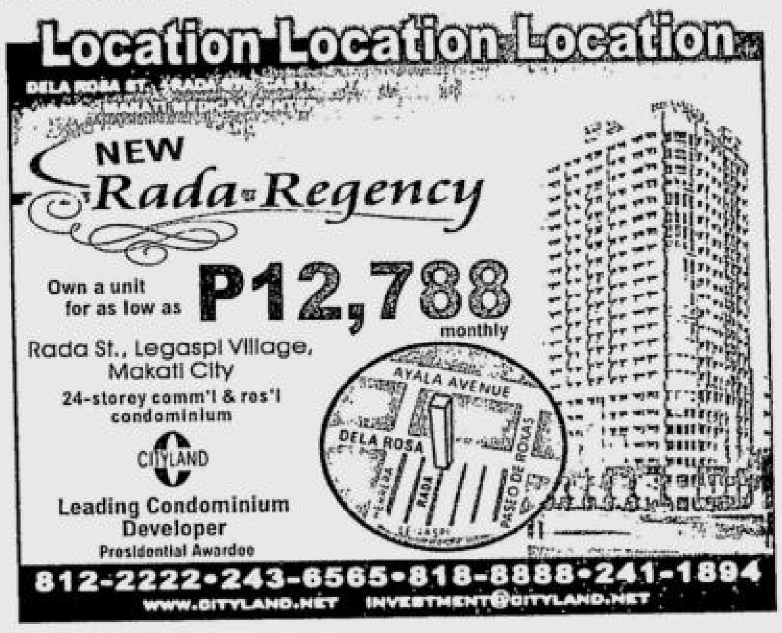
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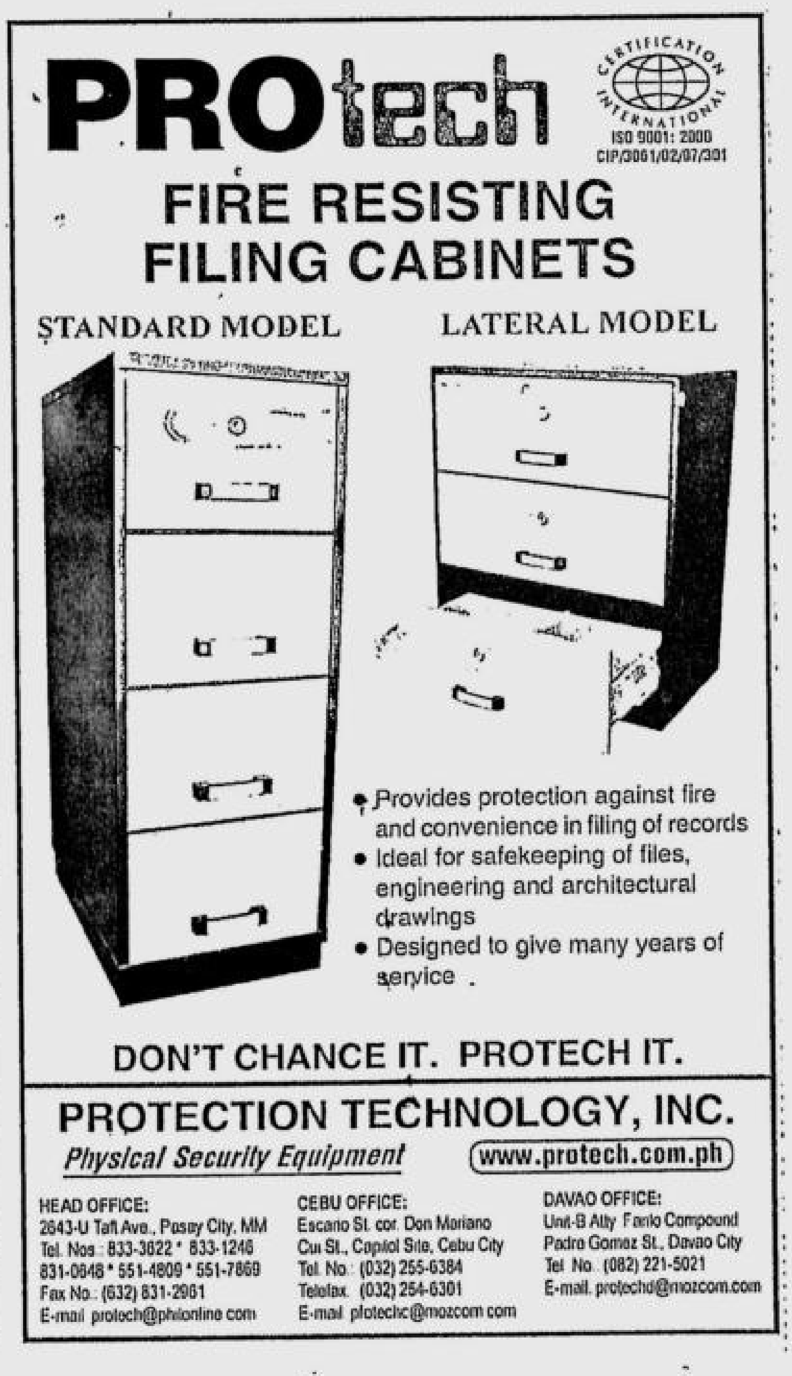
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN: HIV cases top 40M, AIDS kills 3.1M in 2005

NEW DELHI—PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN TACKling HIV infection in key African countries, but five million people were infected across the world in 2005 taking the total beyond a record 40 million, a UN report said Monday.

The grim AIDS epidemic claimed 3.1 million lives during the year, more than half a million of them children, the report said.

"The total number of people living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) reached its highest level, an estimated 40.3 million" up from 37.5 million in 2003, said the AIDS Epidemic Update 2005, released in New Delhi.

The report that came ahead of World AIDS day on Dec. 1 noted that "the overall number of people living with HIV continued to increase in all regions of the world except the Caribbean."

"There were an additional five million new infections in 2005," it said.

The survey warned that growing epidemics were under way in eastern Europe, Central Asia and east Asia and that the spread of HIV/AIDS was intensifying in southern Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 64 percent of the new infections taking the number cases there to an estimated 25.8 million.

"HIV stigma and the resulting actual or feared discrimination have proven to be perhaps the most difficult obstacles to effective HIV prevention," the report said, and these factors "created an ideal climate" for the spread of the epidemic.

Only "one in 10 Africans and one in seven Asians in need of anti-retrovirals were receiving it in mid-2005."

But in some parts of Africa there were "hopeful signs" of declining national HIV prevalence. "Infection levels were dropping" in Zimbabwe, Uganda and Kenya, it said.

"There is ample evidence that HIV does yield to determined and concerted interventions," said a statement by Peter Piot, the Executive Director of the UNAIDS program.

"We are encouraged by the gains that have been made in some countries and by the fact that sustained HIV prevention programs have played a key part in bringing down infections.

"But the reality is that the AIDS epidemic continues to outstrip global and national efforts to contain it. It is clear that a rapid increase in the scale and scope of HIV prevention programs is urgently needed," he said.

In Asia, which has 8.3 million cases, the epidemic was propelled by injecting drug use and commercial sex.

Drugs, sex work and weak surveillance of vulnerable groups were fueling the HIV epidemic in Latin America and Eastern Europe as well as Asia.

Mother-to-child transmission was one of the causes for new infections in sub-Saharan Africa, the report said, predicting about 35 percent of all children born to HIV-positive women would contract the virus.

Levels of knowledge about safe sex and HIV remain low in many countries, especially in many sub-Saharan nations, and notably Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.

Two-thirds or more of young women between 15 and 24 years lacked comprehensive knowledge of how HIV is transmitted, the report said.

A major poll in the Philippines two years ago found more than 90 percent of respondents believed that HIV could be transmitted by sharing a meal with an affected person.

The report said access to cheaper antiretroviral drugs had improved markedly in the past two years with more than one million people in low- and middle-income countries living longer and having better lives.

"Treatment coverage in ... Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Cuba now exceeds 80 percent, the report said, adding that better access to antiretrovirals had averted an estimated 250,000 to 350,000 deaths.

"We can now see the clear benefit of scaling up HIV treatment and prevention together and not as isolated interventions," World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Lee Jongwook said. *AFP*

CHILDREN OF THE QUAKE

KASHMIRI children warm their hands over a fire in Drangyari, 130 km northwest of Srinagar, Nov. 20. Quake-stricken Pakistan heaved a sigh of relief on Sunday after world donors pledged almost $6 billion, and vowed in return to account for every cent as it distributes the aid to survivors of last month's huge tremor. REUTERS

Russia has biggest AIDS epidemic in Europe

NEW DELHI—RUSSIA HAS THE biggest AIDS epidemic in all of Europe fueled by an "extraordinarily" large number of youth injecting drugs, according to a UN report on HIV/AIDS released Monday.

"Russia has the biggest AIDS epidemic in all of Europe ... At the heart of Russia's epidemic are extraordinarily large numbers of young people who inject drugs," said the AIDS Epidemic Update 2005 released in New Delhi.

"There were more than 340,000 registered injecting drug users in the Russian Federation at the end of 2004, although the actual number of injectors could be four to ten times as high," the report warned ahead of World AIDS day on Dec. 1.

Injected drug users, who were HIV positive, were in turn transmitting the disease sexually to their casual or regular partners.

"About six percent of registered HIV infections were related to sexual transmission in 2001; by 2004, that proportion had grown to 25 percent," it said.

Less than 10 percent of HIV infected were receiving antiretroviral therapy in Russia.

"Russia's prison system has been disproportionately affected by the epidemic. HIV prevalence in the country's jails has been estimated to be at least four times higher than in the wider population," the report said.

The news for other former Soviet republics was not much better with "HIV consolidating its presence in every part of the former Soviet Union."

The number of people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia reached an estimated 1.6 million in 2005 that included some 270,000 new infections.

Around 62,000 adults and children died of AIDS-related illnesses in the same period, it said.

Among the Central Asian republics, Uzbekistan "is experiencing the most dynamic (HIV/AIDS) epidemic," the major report said.

Kazakhstans epidemic was centered around young injecting drug users, some of whom also engaged in commercial sex.

In the Baltic states, the epidemic continues to grow but at a slower pace than in the early 2000s, the report said.

"The overall numbers of reported HIV infections remain low," although the report described Estonia as the "worst-affected" Baltic state. *AFP*

Canadian new scrabble champion

LONDON—IN THE END, THE ZOBO AND THE ogive could not quite triumph over the qanat and the euripi on Sunday, and thus the contender was birsled—Scottish dialect for scorched or toasted.

It was with such linguistic acrobatics that the eighth World Scrabble Championships came to an end in a north London hotel, when Adam Logan, a 30-year-old mathematician from Canada, scored 465 points to beat Pakorn Nemitrmansuk, a 30-year-old architect from Thailand, with 426 points in the final game of a playoff.

Over four days of triple-letter scores and usages involving q's without u's, like qanat, and qi, it had been a time of abstruse words, canny tactics and high tension for 102 contenders from more than 40 countries from Australia to Zambia, including the United States. It was a time, too, when language divorced itself from meaning in the competition for the $15,000 winner's prize.

"For the purpose of the game, the meaning of the word is not important," said Leslie Charles, the national champion of Trinidad and Tobago, who sat in a hotel ballroom where the final best-of-five playoff was relayed on wide television screens from a smaller room where the two players were closeted with their racks, tiles and 25-minute timer clocks.

"It's important for our own development to know the meaning," said Charles, 61, a former teacher and accountant. *New York Times News Service*

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US checking out whether Zarqawi was killed in gunfight in Iraq city

WASHINGTON—US AUTHORITIES ARE looking into whether al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed in a gunfight in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a US official said on Sunday, but a White House spokeserson said that was "highly unlikely."

If Zarqawi were found to be among the dead, the United States would view it as a major advance in its efforts to quell a bloody insurgency in Iraq, at a time of acrimonious debate over both the origins and progress of the war.

Eight insurgents, including a woman, were killed on Saturday in clashes between joint US-Iraqi forces and gunmen occupying a house in Mosul, police said. Four more insurgents were arrested.

"Efforts are under way to determine whether Zarqawi was among those killed," the US official said in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity. He provided no additional information.

White House spokesperson Trent Duffy, traveling with President George W. Bush in Asia, said it was "highly unlikely and not credible" that Zarqawi was among the dead in Mosul.

A Pentagon spokesperson said he had no information on Zarqawi, the head of al-Qaida's Iraq wing. The Jordanian-born Zarqawi is Washington's most wanted man in Iraq, with a $25 million US reward on his head.

Bush, facing waning public support for the war in Iraq as casualties mount, has countered critics demanding to know when the more than 150,000 troops in Iraq will come home by saying he will set no timetable for a withdrawal. Bush says such a timetable would be a green light for insurgents.

Over the past week, his administration has launched a counter-offensive against critics accusing the White House of misusing intelligence about the threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to justify the invasion.

The Bush administration calls the Iraq war a central front on the war on terrorism it declared after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Zarqawi is blamed for a relentless series of attacks, suicide bombings and beheadings in Iraq, and his organization claimed responsibility for suicide bombings at Amman hotels this month in which more than 50 people died.

US forces have reported the capture or death of several Zarqawi associates in recent months, but the guerrilla chief has so far evaded his pursuers and suicide bombings and other attacks have killed hundreds of not thousands of Iraqis.

In May, reports Zarqawi was seriously wounded sparked talk of a successor, but followers said the injuries should only serve to inspire his men to step up attacks.

Osama bin Laden named Zarqawi as his deputy in Iraq after he pledged allegiance to the al-Qaida leader in October 2004.

Said to be in his late 30s, Zarqawi remains a mysterious figure. Some posters show him in glasses, looking like an accountant, others as a tough-looking man in a black skullcap. *Reuters*

ABU MUSAB al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida's wing in Iraq, in this March 7, 2005 photo. REUTERS

INQBOX Question of the Week

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Not enough bird flu vaccine in US to battle pandemic

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES WILL not have enough vaccine to address the needs of its population in case of a bird flu pandemic for at least three years, the country's top public health official warned Sunday.

US Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt issued the warning after Canada announced that a low-pathogenic strain of the avian influenza virus has been discovered in wild migratory birds in its provinces of Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia.

On top of that, a low pathogenic H5 strain of the virus was detected in a duck from a farm in British Columbia.

Although Canadian officials argued Sunday that there was "no new risk to public health," the discovery showed the ease with which the virus can spread around.

With the US government scrambling to bolster its defenses, Leavitt said the United States presently does not have the capacity to rapidly manufacture the bird flu vaccine in sufficient volume.

"We have to do nothing short of rebuilding that industry," the secretary acknowledged as he appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

"I first want to make certain that we're clear that we will not have the capacity to produce 300 million doses of a vaccine for three to five years," he added. "We're not as prepared as we need to be."

President George W. Bush asked Congress earlier this month to allocate $7.1 billion in emergency funds to get the country ready for a possible bird flu pandemic.

The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003 and led to the slaughter of millions of poultry around the world.

US health officials are concerned the virus that does not respond to traditional treatment could replicate a 1918 influenza pandemic that killed more than 40 million people around the world, including over 500,000 Americans. *AFP*

Post watchdog slams Woodward over leak case

WASHINGTON—THE WASHINGTON POST'S ombudsman rebuked journalist Bob Woodward on Sunday for withholding what he knew about the CIA leak probe from his editor and for making public statements that were dismissive of the investigation without disclosing his own involvement.

WOODWARD AFP

One of the best-known investigative reporters in the United States, Woodward revealed last week that he testified under oath to special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald that a senior Bush administration official told him in mid-June 2003 about CIA operative Valerie Plame's position at the agency.

Fitzgerald announced a few days later in court papers that his two-year criminal investigation into who leaked Plame's identity would be going back before a federal grand jury, a sign he may seek new or revised charges.

The name of Woodward's source has yet to be made public and so far more than a dozen senior administration officials have denied any involvement in the leak.

Asked on "Fox News Sunday" if he ever spoke to Woodward about Plame, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "No, of course not." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice issued a similar denial through a spokesperson on Saturday.

In a column highly critical of Woodward's conduct, Washington Post ombudsman Deborah Howell said the newspaper took a "hit to its credibility" and called for more oversight of Woodward's work. *Reuters*

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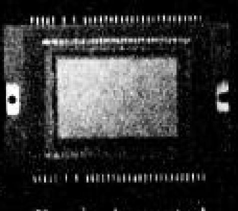

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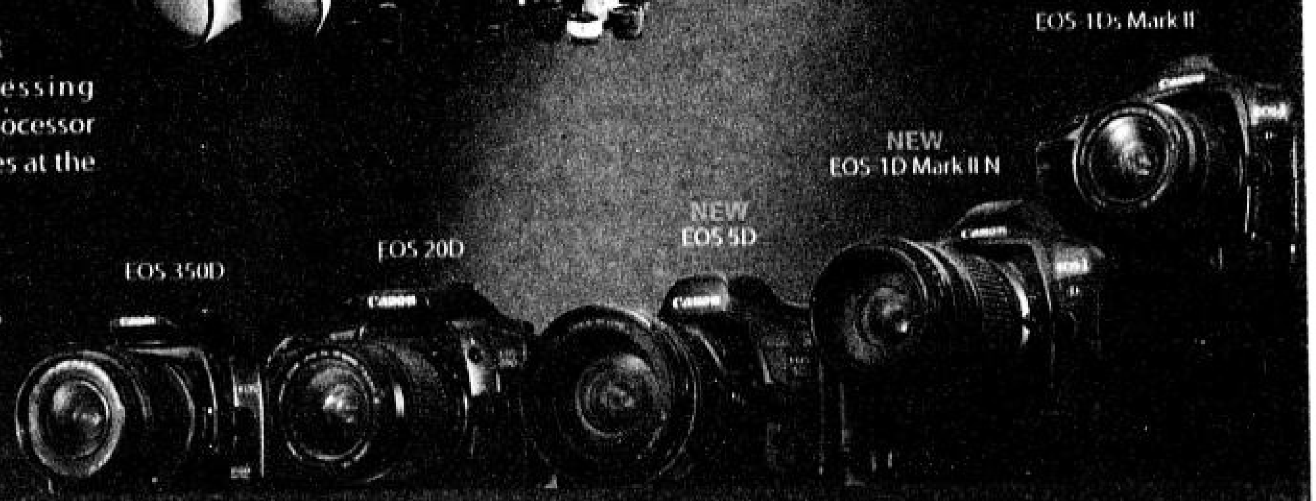

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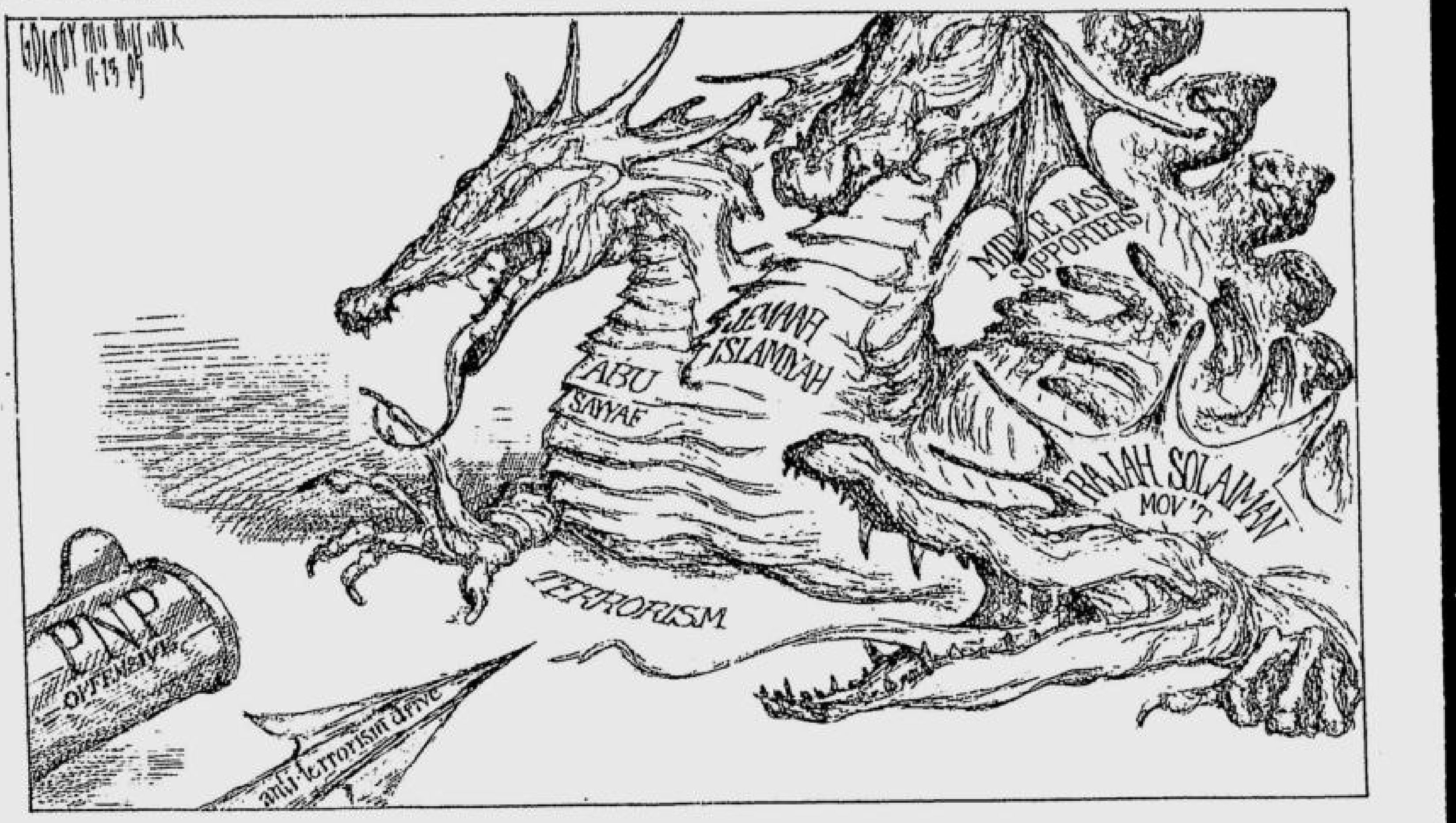

Going digital

EDITORIAL

THREE PROPOSALS MADE LAST WEEK BY VIC DEL Rosario, head of Viva Entertainment and presidential adviser on entertainment, may yet revive the country's dying film industry. His proposals: give a five-year tax holiday for digital films, exempt from taxes all film-related raw materials and equipment and exempt local movies from amusement taxes for the next five years.

Del Rosario made other suggestions, but the one that we see as having a lot of potential is the first: a tax holiday for digital films. Digital films have been making a strong showing lately, and digital filmmaking, given the proverbial shot in the arm, could yet save the entire film industry. Consider the following:

- "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino," a 10-hour digital film by Lav Diaz, recently made waves in international film circles. It is too long for a single commercial showing, but it could be shown in several parts in special digital film theaters. The INQUIRER's Lito Zulueta says "Ebolusyon" is an artistic rarity, "a film [that] only comes once in 10 years."
- "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," a film about an adolescent homosexual who comes of age after he falls in love with a handsome, principled policeman, won the Golden Zenith Award at the 29th Montreal World Film Festival. The film also won the Special Jury Prize in the first Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival in July. Recently, it won Best Feature Film in the 6th Annual imagineNATIVE + Media Arts Festival in Toronto, Canada. It is nominated in the Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor categories in the Asian Festival of First Films in Singapore at the end of this month.
- "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre," placed second in the best digital film category in the Cinemanila International Film Festival. It also won in the best actress, best actor and best screenplay categories.

Last July, INQUIRER columnist Nestor U. Torre, one of the most knowledgeable commentators on the entertainment industry, said that it was becoming increasingly clear that "this will be the Year of the Filipino Digital Feature Film." His forecast is coming true.

Digital films are less expensive to produce. For less than P1 million, one can produce a digital film. Torre says the new cinematic "democracy" could open movie screens to productions that have greater variety, freshness and depth.

A recent example of an inexpensive digital film is "Ilusyon," a lyrical meditation on love, lust and deception. It cost only P900,000 to produce. In mainstream moviemaking, that would not have been enough to pay the talent fee of the lead actor. "Ilusyon" won an A rating from the Cinema Evaluation Board.

Digital filmmaking is inexpensive compared to the old technology of the mainstream movies because no celluloid is used and a digital film does not need a reel projector for showing in a theater. Some digital films have to be transferred to film so that they can be exhibited in cinemas. The additional expense of about P2 million could cancel out the savings in the digital production, but creative Filipino filmmakers can certainly find a solution to this problem.

The SM and Robinsons Malls and also Star Megamall have started screening digital films. The huge student audience is potentially the biggest market for alternative digital films. If digital films could win over the student audience, their producers would not have to depend on financing from the traditional financiers who do not want to put their money in what they call "risky" productions.

One disadvantage of digital films is that they do not star glamorous and big-budget stars like Sharon Cuneta, Judy Ann Santos, Jericho Rosales and Piolo Pascual. But the digital films have made it possible for less well-known but talented actors and actresses to shine. In particular, they have put outstanding performers of the legitimate stage like Irma Adlawan, Bodgie Pascua and Jamie Wilson in the limelight.

The development of the digital film industry could go hand in hand with the flowering of the independent film sector whose financial resources are limited. Independent film producers and directors believe that with the help of digital technology, the "indie scene" will grow and talent fees will improve.

Recent developments are very encouraging for digital filmmaking, and if proposals like those of Vic del Rosario could be carried out by the government, the film industry could yet be saved from dying a slow death.

Sullied waters

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

SHE WAS ALL OF 3 YEARS OLD. BAREFOOT and wearing a stained T-shirt, she sang an improvised one-line Visayan ditty repeatedly to herself: "*Gamay na lang ang among kuha* (Our catch now is small)."

The kid tacked a human face to those dry statistics that tell us about municipal waters: 15 kilometers from shorelines are reserved by law for coastal fishers. Here, only 113,000 tons of fish a year are caught now. This is down from 358,000 tons seven years back.

Similar slumps have been tracked in Bohol Sea, Guimaras Strait to West Palawan and Sulu. But the sharpest declines were in the Moro Gulf. Fishermen there used to net 100,000 tons yearly. Now, they catch just over 2,000 tons—mostly cheap species. "Trash fish" now make up 73 percent of shrunken hauls by coastal fishermen.

Round scud, anchovies, frigate and yellow fin tuna, mackerel and other premium fish are cornered by commercial vessels. They fish often a stone's throw away from shore. Most law enforcers don't even whimper. In the same seven-year period, haul by trawlers and other craft rose from 164,000 tons per year to 568,000 tons. So, little kids croon what they hear their fisher-parents spit: Our catch is now small.

"This intrusion results in unfair competition between commercial and municipal fishers... who are clearly at the losing end," University of the Philippines marine scientist Flor Lacanilao told a "Food Security and Fishery Resources" symposium. Blatant law infraction triggers a vicious cycle that wrecks fishing grounds and embeds poverty further.

Trawling to pollutant dumping follow the wake of many vessels. (Cyanide squirting kills most "reef organisms and converts a productive ground into a graveyard," the World Resources Institute notes in "Sullied Seas.") Depleted catches beggar municipal fisherfolk, who resort to dynamite and wreck habitats, from reefs to mangroves. Poverty spawns penury in a vicious cycle.

"The gross share of a commercial fisher was 11 times that of a municipal fisher," Lacanilao asserts. And there are now about 1.8 million of these subsistence fisherfolk. Most are "intimidated by the sheer might of big fishers, or by the red tape" involved in filing complaints.

Over the last 30 years, the Philippines spent $370 million in loans and grants, plus billions from the treasury, on fisheries development programs, Lacanilao writes in Asian Aquaculture. "Yet the state of our coastal resources has become worse."

Almost 95 percent of coral reefs are damaged. "Most of the country's mangroves, seagrass and algal beds are gone."

Estuaries are capable of delivering products and services at an estimated $23,000 per hectare per year. But chemicals, excreta and garbage made cesspools of this "most valuable ecosystem."

Penury among municipal fisherfolk, in seven bays of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, range from 80 to 95 percent, a survey done by the Department of Agriculture found. "This is the highest in the country."

Population, meanwhile, builds up on "the seam between land and water"—the coastlines. One out of three today live along these strips. These people rely on fish for about 10 percent of their protein. (Worldwide, the average is 16 percent.) When the seas' yields falter, their demand for protein rebounds on farms that are often eroded from surrounding deforestation.

As the Laguna Lake experience shows, politically wired people circumvent the law. Thus, the hackles of Philippine Association of Marine Science members are up against Environment Secretary Michael Defensor for throwing open more bays to culture farms. His administrative order on "Special Uses of the Coastal Zone" has been signed but awaits numbering, before release, the scientists hear. This opens bays to the rich by shutting out the coastal fishers.

Alternative approaches are needed other than knee-jerk demand for more police or cronies. Think different, Lacanilao suggests. Why not grant to fisherfolk, banded into coastal fishing associations, territorial use rights over municipal waters. Japan has used "turfs" for over 100 years now. Prototypes can also be found in Brazil, Sri Lanka, the Ivory Coast and Papua New Guinea.

Under "turfs," they would have exclusive rights to local fishing grounds. Fisherfolk would acquire a stake in implementing rules from seasonal and area closures to catch quotas. This approach is "acceptable to the cultural makeup of our fishing villages." And it's only just to give fisherfolk control over fishery resources in their area.

He argues also for more rigid standards for science-based restoration of marine resources. The thriving marine sanctuary in Apo Island, Negros Oriental, backed up by Silliman University, demonstrates people will take longer term protection efforts when educated. Leyte's Carigara Bay and Bicol's San Miguel Bay are reviving moribund fisheries by integrated coastal management programs that replant mangroves, build artificial reefs, etc. through "people power."

We've pushed the seas perilously close and in some cases, past their natural limits, warned some 1,600 marine scientists, fishery biologists and oceanographers in an earlier document titled, "Troubled Waters—A Call To Action." Reforms to curb ingrained waste and coddling of cronies must be adopted if 3-year-olds are to stop crooning sad songs of dwindling catches from sullied waters.

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Lessons

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHAT TO DO WITH PHILIPPINE EDUCATION, which has gone on a tailspin for a couple of decades now and is stretching the knowledge gap between this country and its neighbors?

I've read several interesting proposals of late, which have to do with revising the curriculum, improving teacher-student relationship, changing the pedagogy or teaching method, and expanding the range of the pedagogical environment beyond the classroom to include the home, the media, and so on.

I have my own proposals, which I think will go farther toward improving the enlightenment of this country. Or at least keep us from lagging further behind our neighbors. They have to do with the lessons we are teaching the country today. These are my three proposals for education:

First, improve the plight of the public school teacher. I can't see how we can make any headway in education in this country unless we improve the status of the public school teacher. In my time, teachers, public or private, university or nursery, commanded the absolute respect of the community. They were greeted deferentially on the street and given seats of honor on stage in important social events.

Today, well, teachers measure even less than writers. I still remember what a BIR man told me when I appeared at his office in the early 1990s to settle my back taxes. "*Ay, writer ka lang pala,*" he said, completely dismayed. I can imagine what he said about teachers. The movie "Mga Munting Tinig" got it right: Public school teachers, particularly in far-flung areas, are people who teach while waiting for their application to become maids or dancers abroad to push through. Indeed, who teach as an emergency measure, to occupy time between dancing or scrubbing floors abroad, the way show bands play local beer gardens between gigs in Asia. *Pamparaos*, or a way to get by.

What are we teaching the country with something like this? Nothing more or less than that education, or being its guiding light, is a road to perdition. We can try to improve curriculum, we can change pedagogical methods, we can build more classrooms, but we treat teachers in this way and none of it will matter. The best way to teach, as we all know, is by example. You cannot teach your kids the virtues of honesty, integrity and responsibility, however much you try to drum the lessons into their heads with the lash of the belt on their butts, if you yourself are a hustler, a crook and a lush. The same is true here. You cannot teach kids to value education if they see the pillars of education trashed in this way. The public school teachers themselves say wryly that they have replaced the carabao as the national animal.

Before anything else, give the teachers better pay. If we can give soldiers increases in pay because they defend the physical life of the nation, we can give teachers increases in pay because they defend the spiritual life of the nation. The second is far more important than the first. I propose completely seriously giving the salaries and emoluments of Cabinet officials and congressmen to the public school teachers. Teachers mold minds, Cabinet officials and congressmen only screw them.

Second, teach Philippine history to every Filipino, not just the kids. I'll wager that if you give a test in Philippine history to the residents of Malacañang, the Senate, the House and the judiciary, more than half of them will flunk it. I half-suspect that if you ask the same people to sing the National Anthem and recite Panatang Makabayan, the majority of them will flunk it. The reason this country has no future is that it has no past. The Jews were cursed to rove for ages because they did not have a home to pitch a tent in. Filipinos are cursed to rove for eternity because they have a home but do not have the eyes to see it. History is the thread that leads back home.

The current Filipino Diaspora is not the disease, it is a symptom of the disease. Long before Filipinos live physically abroad, they are already living mentally abroad. Or specifically, in the United States. Our concept of globalization, far from being a mark of sophistication, is a mark of parochialism. It has nothing to do with the globe, it has to do with America. We imagine ourselves global because we watch the NBA and listen to hip-hop. History is the one lesson that has been lost to us all these years. The knowledge that we weren't spawned from a *kawayan*, as the myth goes, but were forged from the smithy of struggle is the one legacy we have spurned. Ask Rizal what happens to people who do not know where they came from.

In any case, where's the point of making the educational system world-class if all it will do is produce doctors who will want to work as nurses in Los Angeles or Toronto?

My last proposal, and the most important one, is to get rid of GMA posthaste. Nothing can push back ignorance and benightedness in this country more than that. What is the point of education? It is not just to give people a wealth of goods, it is to give people a wealth of possibility. It is not just to give people a breath of fresh air, it is to give people a breadth of spirit. It is not just to give people a set of skills, it is to give people a sense of purpose. What is the point of GMA? She is the refutation of it all. She represents the constriction of possibility, the meanness of spirit, the laying low of lofty purpose. You can try to fill the youth with ideas about justice and goodness and wisdom, but so long as GMA is there, they will learn only that their elders do not practice what they preach. Or that those who can't do teach. We want to teach this country decency, dump her.

It's a basic lesson in good manners and right conduct.

Safeguarding cultural and scientific works

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ON THE DZRH SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAM that National Commission on Culture and the Arts Executive Directress Cecile Alvarez and I co-host, Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, chair of the committee on accounts, tackled the issue of leadership in the House of Representatives. Recall that there has been talk about a challenge to Speaker Jose de Venecia's leadership from Barbers' neighbor, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

Barbers, who's squarely for De Venecia, said that among the best arguments for retaining him is his unchallenged stature. He recalled that JDV's debt-for-equity swap proposal, articulated in New York during the United Nation's 60th anniversary last September, has been considered seriously, especially by the Paris Club of creditor countries. The latest to give the proposal serious consideration, noted Barbers, was Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, who sought a review of the JDV proposal on the US Senate floor last month. Inouye described it as "a creative and innovative approach that brings together the G-8 nations in solving the burgeoning debt problem of the middle-income countries." Inouye urged the Senate to "spark productive discussion and debate on this international problem."

At the recently concluded Apec meeting in South Korea, Barbers said, the Philippine proposal for the creation of an "inter-faith council" among nations, which President Macapagal-Arroyo has wholeheartedly pushed through UN Ambassador Lauro Baja, received a lot of support. That was also JDV's idea.

* * *

I read recently that GMA is considering appointing an older brother of Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr., Marlon Revilla, as the next chair of the 32-member Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. I hope she does not do so, for to begin with, there would be too many Revillas appointed to government positions. Already there's the elder former Sen. Ramon Revilla, chair of the Public Estates Authority, and Bong's younger brother, Strike, who's with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Secondly, appointing Marlon, who was his father's chief of staff, to the MTRCB would be a clear conflict of interest since as the Revillas are in the movie industry. It's time GMA stopped paying political debts.

* * *

It was with a feeling of grief that I read about the recent fire that burned down the home of the late National Artist and novelist NVM Gonzalez on the UP Diliman campus. I have good memories of that home as we spent there many a delightful tea or soiree that he and wife Narita would host for his literature students. That home was a repository not just of his works but of those of other writers, too, as well as precious mementos, art objects and artifacts. I understand from Cecile that literary critic Isagani Cruz is also quite sad that an unpublished work of NVM, who passed away in 1999, might have been burned too.

It's fortuitous that as a way to celebrate NVM's 90th birthday last Sept. 8 (which explains his closeness to the Blessed Mother), his widow Narita began sharing with select English departments in various universities and schools here and abroad some of his old books. These, she said, "showed his life-long devotion to writing, art and literature." But apparently she did not finish the distribution before fire got them.

I talked about this tragic event with Cecile Alvarez, in the hope of prodding the NCCA to do something about preventing another such mishap. Those UP houses are so vulnerable to fires and other calamities, and a number of them are virtual repositories of the nation's cultural and scientific wealth. Let's safeguard them.

* * *

I'm glad the senators have made a closer scrutiny of the Department of Education budget and realized it has been shrinking over the years as other concerns were prioritized. This low budget is reflected in our students' poor performance, which, in turn, is bound to affect our people's competitiveness in this age of fierce global competition. Still, it's heartening to realize how many people from very poor families have made good. I've written about House Deputy Speaker Jerry Salapuddin, the son of a poor Basilan farmer, who, as a young boy, didn't even know there was such a thing as school, until he began to miss his playmates every morning. One day he followed them to a place where he saw them all seated before what seemed like an important person standing in front. He then told his father that he wanted to join them. A UP-trained lawyer, Salapuddin is now one of the highest-ranking Muslim leaders in government.

* * *

The story of Baguio Rep. Maurice Domogan is just as inspiring. His mother died when he was 2 years old and he and his sister were separated. Their father worked as a miner in Lepanto Mines, and Maurice was raised by their grandfather in the remotest area of Ilocos Sur, while his sister grew up with their grandmother in Sagada. The siblings saw each other again when they were already in high school. One of four high school students who walked barefoot to school, Domogan had to borrow an oversized barong to attend a junior-senior prom, which, in his words, "made me look like Kenkoy" so that his date refused to go with him. That humiliation, however, proved providential, as it got seared into his memory and kept him going in the face of enormous difficulties.

* * *

After high school, Domogan moved to Baguio City and boarded in a squatter's house by a creek for P5 a month. He took odd jobs to support himself through liberal arts at what is now the University of Baguio. He joined a rondalla, became a janitor and construction worker and at one point taught in high school. Being from the Bago and KanKanay tribes, he succeeded in getting a scholarship with the help of the Commission on National Integration to enter the law school of Baguio Colleges, from which he graduated in 1973. He was later enticed to run for councilor of Baguio and from there he went on to become its three-term city mayor and now two-term representative. Domogan was one of the legal luminaries of the anti-impeachment move in the House.

Women in film

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

OPENING TOMORROW EVENING AT THE EDSA Shangri-La Cineplex is the Feminist Centennial Filmfest, a festival of films "by women, about women. Films that are directed, or produced, or written by women. Films that have strong women as central characters. Films that raise gender issues and reflect feminist perspectives."

Highlighting the "F" Festival are the Feminist Centennial Filmfest Awards, recognizing six women in the Philippine movie industry for outstanding cinematic achievements. They are: for acting—Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos; for directing—Marilou Diaz Abaya; for scriptwriting—Lualhati Bautista; and for producing—Charo Santos Concio and Lily Monteverde.

The common perception of the Philippine movie industry is that it is male-dominated and, at least until the demise of the action genre, ruled by male tastes and perceptions. But a careful study of the history of local cinema will show that, in fact, women have played prominent roles in the industry's birth and development on both the commercial and artistic sides of the business. And in these days of dwindling box-office returns and the seeming disappearance of the Filipino film audience, women on both sides of the camera are again playing caregivers to the industry, making movies and breathing life into an industry on its death throes.

For the souvenir program of the awards rites, I wrote a backgrounder on the role of women in Philippine film (with generous quotes from an earlier study by Nick Deocampo) that I think would help us understand just how crucial a role women in film have played not just in the art of cinema but in Philippine life itself. Excerpts from the backgrounder follow below and in tomorrow's column.

* * *

VIRGIN and vamp, saint and seductress, madonna and whore—these are the extremes which best describe the image of women in media. The polarization of women's images is even more radical in Philippine movies, where the extremes are embodied in the ever-virtuous *bida*, who is self-sacrificing, pure and innocent, and the slutty and sex-crazed *contrabida*, who inflicts endless suffering on the hapless heroine.

The bad news is that in the nearly century-old history of Philippine films, women have found their real-life choices and aspirations imprisoned in these extremes of image. There is very little room, even in present-day Philippine society, for women to express both sentimentality and sexuality, to have the freedom to express sexual choices and preferences without inviting social opprobrium and moral condemnation.

For feminists in the film industry, even those for whom feminism was an unconscious, instinctive urge or else clothed in terms of self-expression and autonomy, the impetus for their work lay in breaking free of the stereotypes and crafting alternative images of women... [I]f one of the cornerstones of feminism and gender fairness is freeing both women and men from the "boxes" in which social expectations have imprisoned and categorized them, then these women are feminists in spirit and in their work. Indeed, they are sisters in the struggle.

* * *

WHILE Philippine cinema "projects itself as a male-dominated industry," writes Nick Deocampo, "a close look ... reveals that the female presence has exerted tremendous influence in shaping the cinema's growth."

Deocampo cites the role of Titay Molina who played Josephine Bracken in the first locally produced film feature, "The Life of Dr. Jose Rizal," in 1912. The movie was produced by two Americans —Harry Brown and Edward Meyer Gross, husband of Molina—and it is believed that Molina's fame as a well-known *zarzuela* performer "helped boost the film's popularity."

The cross-fertilization of stage and screen began by Molina continued, with subsequent film productions making use of female stars of stage plays and vaudeville in silent movies, "drawing patronage from theater houses, whose audiences soon trooped to the movie houses that mushroomed almost overnight in the country's capital."

Among the notable figures in pre-war cinema, one who established her niche behind the camera rather than in front of it, was Carmen Concha, who started out as a movie producer but whose reputation, says Deocampo, "rested more on her career as a writer and director." It was Concha who wrote and directed "Yaman ng Mahirap" (Wealth of the Poor, 1939), a film "notable for its daring portrayal of poverty and for expressing social criticism under the American regime."

* * *

THE PRE-EMINENT woman producer of the immediate post-war period was Narcisa Lim vda. De Leon, better known to this day as Doña Sisang. In 1938, she established LVN Studios, which became one of the "Big Four" studios that dominated filmmaking in the 1950s.

Deocampo describes her influence on Philippine movies thus: "Without having seen a single film before venturing into film production, but endowed with great business acumen, she made her studio into a leading force in the business. Along with other studios, LVN fabricated film genres by mimicking Hollywood imports. Unable to turn the tide of foreign films, producers like Doña Sisang inscribed formulas that could make their films compete in the market—romance, fantasy, sex and action..."

She also had an uncanny ability to recognize the potential for stardom even in callow young men and women drawn to the glamour of the movies. "Her actresses became role models for countless Filipinas," writes Deocampo. "She also set the standard for female representation by casting Caucasian-looking women or mestizas in major roles. The star system she helped establish is one of the dominant film industry practices and has prevailed until now."

A village called Taytay

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

TAYTAY IN THE 16TH CENTURY WAS SITUATED on the banks of a stream or arroyo born of the springs from the mountains of Antipolo that drained into a river. It overflowed yearly from August until October or November, turning the whole valley into a lagoon and forcing everyone to take a banca to move around. But this fertilized the soil and the fields, and because of this yearly inundation, harvests were rich and abundant.

Since the water entered at the time that the rice was maturing and beginning to sprout, the irrigation helped the seeding a lot and did not impede the grain from maturing. It was common to see farmers in their bancas harvesting and transporting the rice bundles to their houses, where they were left in the sun to finish their drying. Once dried, they threshed, cleaned and warehoused the rice in their granaries.

The flooding of the town was so bad the waters would reach the floor of the church all the way to the main altar. Because of this, the people chose as a cemetery a small hill nearby where people who died could be buried. To attend Mass, they had to travel to Antipolo, a distance of 3 miles into the mountain. For this reason, Fr. Pedro Chirino convinced the elders of the town to transfer the old church dedicated to St. John the Baptist and the convent atop that hill. Not only did they agree, but they also decided to move the town to the slopes of the same hill in order to be nearer the church, now called San Juan del Monte.

At first this was done slowly, but after they brought a huge cross from the old town, the transfer was speeded up so much so that sometimes 10 to 12 families would occupy one house just to leave the town. When asked why, they answered that once the cross had been removed, they began to suffer nightmares and felt unprotected from the demons that roamed freely at night. Thus, they did not want to sleep there anymore.

The site of the town was much better since it was free from flooding, but in summer the people sought relief from the heat in bathing. Thus, a ditch connecting to the new town was constructed at the base of the hill. Despite this, many people especially children suffered from ill health and died. This was something that happened often when towns were moved, and the friars learned to avoid transferring them.

By 1596, Taytay was well on its way to being Christianized, although there were some who still remained faithful to the old religion. Secretly, a band of female *babaylans* continued the old rites, enticing people to attend their services in secret while pretending to be Christians in public. Before one of them died, she designated her heir and successor to the office. The idol would then be brought from the house of the deceased to that of the heir in great silence at midnight. There for three days they would hold banquets where wine was served in abundance.

After two years, someone informed the parish priest, Fr. Diego de Santiago of the goings-on. The idols were confiscated and burned. These figures were made of clay, others were of wood, and a pair from the tooth of a crocodile set in gold on the tip of which was the head of the anito also in gold.

The most powerful of the *babaylans* was related to the principales and because she was intelligent, she could stoke the fires of discontent. If someone was sick, they would convince them to throw lots to find out if they would live or die and offer sacrifices to the anito for his health.

Even after the others had recanted, the principal *babaylan* persisted. But they could not find her anito, until the priest noticed traces of smoke on an old bamboo post that supported the top of the roof in her house. He ordered it cut to see what was kept in the hollow and it turned out to be a golden idol. This, too, was thrown into the flames.

Children and the old men of the village were obliged to go to church every day to learn their catechism. Crosses were planted in the streets of their barangays and around them in the afternoon, young adults would gather to pray and recite the catechism. Instead of the chants of the old religion, they would intone in verse the mysteries of the faith and the Christian doctrine. The children themselves composed these verses and the parish priest was proud to point out that the topic of his sermon that morning was sung by a young girl immediately that same day.

The bells tolled the Angelus at dawn, noon and dusk. During the night, a town crier was assigned to around the town sounding a bell and admonishing the people to pray for the souls in purgatory and for those in the state of mortal sin.

Postscript: Taytay, the village along the Pasig, was the encomienda of Capt. Juan Pacheco Maldonado, fiscal of the city. In Manila in the year 1591, his wife Faustina de Palacios y Villagomez died. She was a patroness of the Jesuits, having spent for the construction of a major part of the Church of St. Ignatius as well as the convent finished by Fr. Antonio Sedeno. Bishop Domingo de Salazar delivered her eulogy and her bones were deposited in the wooden church of the Jesuits and later transferred and installed in the chapel on the side of the Epistle in front of the altar of the holy relics when the stone church was completed.

Maldonado returned to Mexico after her death and married Teresa Salcedo, grand-niece of Miguel Lopez de Legaspi.

(*Data from Colins, Francisco S.J., Labor Evangelico. Edited by Pablo Pastells, S.J., 1904.*)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Buried hope

YOUNG BLOOD

Rolly Jude M. Ortega

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO STUMBLE UPON A CHEST filled with gold bars and precious jewels? With such riches, you can go to the United States, have all the blondes you desire and spite those who spited you before.

I had the same dream several years ago. I wanted to search for a buried treasure, guided by a coded map and all. With the money from the loot, I then imagined, I would go to the States, collect all the Marvel comic books I could get my hands on and eat Pringles all day.

I knew, however, that for every Jim Hawkins of "Treasure Island," there's a Long John Silver and a great deal of trouble and adversities. I knew, too, that not all treasures are buried and neither do they necessarily come in the form of gold bars.

But since I could not begin my quest, I contented myself with the fortune-hunting stories of my uncles and their friends. Their adventures were surely not as suspenseful or glamorous as those in books and movies and, worse, they never ended happily, but hearing the stories straight from the horse's mouth was quite exciting.

Aside from farming, treasure hunting is the occupation of a few of my uncles. While waiting for the next harvest, they leave the cornfield and dig in odd places in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato.

One tale I will never forget was about how a *babaylan* (fortune teller-cum-faith healer) led them through a series of futile searches. The old man claimed that the figurine he was keeping, which resembled the image of Sto. Niño, could point the location of the buried treasure. Off my uncles would go to the site and then they would dig and dig without finding any treasure. Whenever they would find water table or the hole collapsed, the *babaylan* would say they were being blocked by malevolent spirits. My uncles would then go looking for black chickens to be offered to the spirits, and then start digging in another place the *babaylan* had identified for them. The search dragged on for several years and was only stopped when the old man died.

My uncles' experiences do seem amusing and deserving of derision. But the hunters' misfortune actually calls for some reflection.

The plight of corn growers is worse than that of the ditch digger's in the story. The digger digs a ditch to earn money to buy food so he would have the strength to dig a ditch. Farmers sow hybrid seeds, use synthetic fertilizers and sell their produce so they can buy food and pest-resistant seeds. While the cost of agricultural supplies rises by several pesos per milligram, the price of corn increases by a few centavos per kilogram. To arrest their slide deeper into poverty, those who till the soil like my uncles will do anything and follow anyone who promises great wealth, even if the scheme seems to be too good to be true.

Treasure hunters once ransacked a cave, damaging a potential eco-tourism destination in the process. When I went inside the cave about 12 years ago, the hunters had chipped off a wall a figure of a naked woman, which might have been an archaeological artifact. Now it's dangerous to go inside the cave because dynamites used by hunters have caused large cracks to form in the mouth and in the roof of the cave. My cousins told me that the stalactites, which took thousands of years to form, have also been destroyed. (Similar problems brought about by treasure hunters threaten the reservation area in Mt. Matutum in South Cotabato.)

It's easy to hate the hunters if you're the type who subscribes to National Geographic and travels to Unesco World Heritage Sites to unwind every summer. You can't empathize with them if you don't have to worry about rats and El Niño destroying your livelihood and you have the leisure to appreciate culture and the arts.

But I refuse to judge the hunters. The holes they dug may be proof of their indolence and greed, but those same holes are also telltale signs of neglect and abuse by those who hold power.

In almost all rural communities of Mindanao I've been to, treasure hunting is commonplace. People are lured into looking for the treasure of Yamashita as easily as betting on "last two," a very popular but illegal numbers game. Many Filipinos would rather stake their future on an illegal activity than trust their leaders to bring about progress in their lives.

If you're a public official born to a family of business tycoons or owners of wide tracks of land, the highest value instilled in you is to bring in the dough and maintain your social status. Thus you would propose or implement laws that benefit you most and you would do everything to stay in power. If you work in the government and got your position through nepotism or bribery, your priority would naturally be to pay back those who helped you or recover your expenses. It is clear from what's happening around us, that public service has taken a back seat retaining power and cutting deals. As long as our form of government continues to be an aristocracy masquerading as a democracy, the masses will remain mired in poverty.

If you're an ordinary Filipino, the best way—or, it seems to be the only way—to secure a better future for yourself is by finding work overseas. If you can't leave, then you must get used to sleeping on an empty stomach and put all your hopes in treasure hunting. You dream not just once but for the rest of your life about finding that hidden chest filled with gold and jewelry so you can go to the States and leave your wretched existence.

Rolly Jude M. Ortega, 20, is a second year AB Political Science student at Notre Dame of Marbel University in Koronadal City.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

VFA with Australia?

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE Australian government has proposed to the Philippine government a military arrangement similar to the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement. Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz tried to justify such an arrangement on TV, but he ended up admitting that the costs would be for the account of the Philippines.

It would be recalled that, not too long ago, Australian Prime Minister John Howard earned the ire, if not contempt, of some Asian leaders when he made the outlandish proposition for Australian troops to pursue "terrorists" beyond their country's borders and even inside the territory of other Asian states, as a corollary to the preemptive strike made by the United States and Great Britain when they led the Coalition of the Willing in their naked invasion of Iraq.

A VFA is worse than the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) originally concluded in perpetuity and for free. When Secretary Alfredo Bengson proposed a regime similar to the Status of Forces Agreement (Sofa) obtaining in Europe and elsewhere, the Americans denounced it as "Cashier Diplomacy." Hence, for more than half a century, the US paid nothing for the bases.

Salonga, who understood that the MBA served US interests only, sought for its abrogation. However, Thomas Hubbard outwitted an accommodating Domingo Siazon, then the foreign affairs secretary. Now American troops can come and go—anytime and anywhere—into the country, again, for free.

Philippine sovereignty is as diminished under an MBA as under a VFA. "Balikatan" impinges on the sensitivities of the local inhabitants. Upon their withdrawal from Subic and Clark, US troops left with us contaminated wastes, undocumented Amerasians and unresolved cases of US servicemen accused of various crimes, like rape and manslaughter of farmers mistaken for wild boars.

A VFA with Australia should not be concluded by Manila. But if Manila does so in its naivete, it should submit the agreement to the Senate for concurrence as required by the Constitution. And the Senate should reject it—without hesitation. This Senate concurrence was lacking in the illegally imposed RP-US VFA. One military master is more than enough.

—NELSON D. LAVIÑA
Ambassador (Ret.)
Nlavina@lycos.com

MILITANTS lie down on the street in Baguio to protest EVAT.

Overcoming the anti-Muslim bias

SOLITA COLLAS-MONSOD, DISCUSSING the findings of the Philippine Human Development Network on the anti-Muslim prejudice in this country, concluded by saying that the bottom line is: Unless we take steps to overcome that prejudice, the Moro conflict may never end. (PDI, 11/05/05)

I am suggesting the following steps to help Filipinos overcome that prejudice:

(1) Congress should pass a law prohibiting media people and establishments, print or broadcast, from unnecessarily tagging a suspected or convicted offender with his/her religious affiliation or belief;

(2) Remove all literature promoting racism (such as *moro-moro*, "Florante at Laura," and all those which unnecessarily portray Muslims, or any race or tribe for that matter, as pirates, rebels, fanatics and the like) from our educational curriculum or system.

I do not understand why we consider Balagtas a national hero when his only concrete contribution to the country is that of having blackened the image of Muslims through his book "Florante at Laura." That book has Muslims for villains who could only be saved from villainy by converting to Catholicism. Worse, we teach that book in schools! Is it any wonder that even before a Christian could ever meet a Muslim, he/she already has a negative opinion about Muslims?

(3) Include, for compulsory reading, in our educational curriculum or system, the book of Cesar Adib Majul's "Muslims in the Philippines," a history of the Moros from pre-Spanish era. It shows that even before the arrival of the Spaniards in the islands that was eventually called the Philippines, the Muslims were already civilized and had a full-fledged state, government and system of laws. In fact, the Sultanate of Sulu was a political and economic power in Asia.

The country can only claim a glorious past prior to the Spaniards by recognizing the Moro history as its own.

(4) Media establishments, print or broadcast, should not employ as reporter, columnist or commentator anyone who manifests prejudice or bias against any individual or group of people, by reason of religion, ethnic affiliation, gender or political belief or affiliation. If such a person has been employed, he/she should be removed.

The INQUIRER can take the first step by removing Ramon Tulfo as a columnist. He has shown a strong anti-Muslim prejudice.

—MACAUNDAS M. HADJIRASUL,
United Muslims Federation of Cebu Inc.,
2nd Floor, Door 26,
Cebu Coliseum Complex,
Leon Kilat Street, Cebu City, 6000

The rape of Malacañang

I VIEWED WITH DISTASTE THE VIOLATED serene beauty of Malacañang Palace surrounded with barbed wire entanglements as shown on TV. But why were there no photos of the Palace in that state published in the newspapers? Are news reporters gagged by the imposition of the calibrated preemptive response?

According to my husband Godofredo O. Peteza, a veteran, Malacañang looked like the Japanese garrisons in World War II, without the foxholes. And the show of force by the Philippine National Police against unarmed civilians who are not enemies of the State was reminiscent of the Marcos regime during which soldiers of the Philippine Constabulary acted like mad dogs attacking any person without provocation.

Moreover, the Strong Republic often touted by President Macapagal-Arroyo sounds like the New Society that President Marcos said would make our country "great again."

The similarities are simply scary. Don't they disturb us. Have we become immune to such dangers.

—TRINIDAD ESTURAS PETEZA,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan, Daet,
Camarines Norte 4600

Hunger worse than lethal injection

CONTRARY TO THE CLAIM OF THE Arroyo administration, any increase in the prices of petroleum products and electricity will directly hit every citizen of this country. It cannot be denied by every thinking individual that the production of goods and their delivery to the market and to the consumers are dependent on oil and electricity. Hence, it can be expected that all basic commodities will be affected by this blood-sucking law. Hunger and deprivation will then remain the poor's daily fare.

Poverty and hunger are violations of human rights, particularly, the people's right to adequate means and decent living, which right includes enough food, decent housing, education, health and sanitation.

The Philippine government has committed to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to institute mechanisms for the eradication of poverty and hunger. This particular goal has, in fact, been a top priority of all administrations since the 1980s. The reality however is, food-poor families increased from 2.4 millions to 2.5 millions in 2000. Given the present realities, the campaign for the eradication of poverty remains an uphill climb due to different factors which include, among others, deficient laws, policies, plans and programs, EVAT included.

Surely more than anyone, it is the poor who will again bear the brunt of the impact of EVAT. The only thing that is clear here is, with the billions of pesos in taxes the government is set to derive, it will be able to pay the country's debt to foreign creditors and prop up its image. The government may be able to collect more, but with the prevalence of corruption everywhere, will the people certainly benefit from higher taxes? Meanwhile, the landless, the jobless, the underemployed, and those with meager income, should bear with continued poverty and suffer a slow death due to hunger, a scourge worse than death by lethal injection.

—LEONOR B. GOMEZ,
deputy director for operations,
TFDP Visayas,
lgomez@tfdp.org

Cockfighting ups bird flu risk

I HOPE THE GOVERNMENT WILL HEED Manolo Iñigo's advice and impose a total ban on the importation of fighting cocks to help prevent the H5N1 bird flu strain from spreading. (PDI, 10/31/05) In fact, even if the bird flu wasn't such a serious threat, officials should prohibit cockfighting. It is a cruel "sport" that should have been outlawed years ago. The poor birds are pumped full of steroids and fitted with sharp spurs that could slice their foes to shreds.

Before they die, the roosters suffer from broken bones, gouged eyes, gaping wounds, and other painful injuries. The best way to stop cruelty to animals and the spread of bird flu is to stop using chickens for fights or food.

—MAD ABRIL,
mad.abril@gmail.com

Rage and action

THIS IS A REJOINDER TO CONRADO DE Quiros' column, "Nausea," which came out on Oct. 18, 2005.

Carry on, De Quiros. Rage against the dying of the light as Dylan Thomas has said. And we, the people, rage with you.

We stand behind you in speaking out against the tyrant in Malacañang. With your words, the oppressed whose votes have been stolen and whose freedom is now being suppressed, are given the chance to speak out their grievances and seek the truth that they deserve.

Sadly, many have remained chained to apathy. Many have been deceived by Malacañang's propaganda which promotes silence in order to bury the truth and promises of progress which have become a lie as shown by the increasing gap between the rich and the poor.

Because of this, the more we need people who would dare to wield the pen as an instrument of freedom, the more we need people who would brave police truncheons and guns, and now even, the firemen's water canons.

Now is the time for the Filipino people, Muslims and Christians alike, to stand united and to challenge the so-called intellectuals and opinion makers to join the struggle of the toiling masses who need a hand in ousting an illegitimate and immoral president.

We toppled a tyrant before, we can do it again.

—REN JALLALUDIN ROPETA,
vice chairperson,
Moro-Christian
Peoples' Alliance (MCPA),
48 A Mapagbigay St.,
Brgy. Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City,
mcpaphils@yahoo.com

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INBOX

Do you support DENR's decision to allow Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's logging firm to renew operations in Samar?

NO!NO!NO!
—Calvin, 45, *pasig*

No! It will only open doors for other logging firms to operate
—fernando laus, 31, *baguio city*

(NO) will not allow renewal of Sen. Enrile logging firm in Samar because it damages the environment..
—Daniel L. Loreto, 39, *Roxas City*

wats dat again? another lapse in judgment? helloooww!!!
—marelita Garcia, 32, *lipa city*

Never. DENR decision in favor of SJTC of JPE is an "economic payment of a political debt".
—Ely delos Santos, 45, *Tacurong City*

no!, this just shows that nothing is safe & sacred 2 Gma & her minions just 2 prolong her dying political life.
—arnold Mendez, 39, *maragondon,cavite*

NO ONE could BEAT JUAN, NEVER!
—mando rugas, 43, *davao city*

Mr. Enrile, a man of his stature has no respect for nature, the law and the people of Samar who love their forest.
—Justin Santos, 25, *Tacloban City*

no! Denr should protect our forest and not to be used as political backpay to supporters.
—winston h Garcia, 42, *baguio*

No. Selective or otherwise, logging is always a form of human intervention with the balance of nature.
—marco bernardo, *baguio city*

no!, not in Samar or anywhere else..
—Arnold Mendez, 39, *maragondon, cavite*

NO! History will be 4ever grateful if Sen. Enrile stops logging operation in Samar.
Regards to Sec. DefenSORE...
—Rodion Bithao, 38, *Sta. Maria Bulacan*

hell nO! DENR is a reputable institution, let's just say Defensor supports logging in Samar. stop deforesting Samar!
—kim lineses, 23, *calapan city*

Do you agree with Malacanang that the 'Hello Garci' scandal is now a closed book?

Close-open? Goodbye Garci na ngaba?!

i disagree because people want the truth and nothing but the truth.
—alex musni, 48, *cagayan*

The book is closed by Malacanang, but there is only a cover and no pages inside. Hello! I am sorry.. Pweh!
—Rodion Bithao, 38, *Sta. Maria Bulacan*

NO.D quest of d Filipino people 4d whole truth has not yet come out. D right of d people on public concerns is being violated!
—Mendiola P. Mariano, 21, *Quezon city*

hello garci scandal wil only be a closed book, if garcilliano himself wil surface & clear d issue.
—mengfhei orcine, 32, *bacoor, cavite*

My answer is NO. How can we close d hello Garci scandal without d proper investigation.
—jerry cruz, 40, *manila*

yes! It wil not help our economy improve anyway
—fernando laus, 31, *baguio city*

Yes, malacañang has cofirmed Garci is DEAD, &"dead men tell no tales".. may his soul burn in hell
—chris, *manila*

its over not becoz its forgotten alrdy, but bcoz it has long been resolvd evrsince d issue surfaced--she DID cheat!
—a.sombillo, 18, *qc*

dont judge d book by its cover, judge malacanang hu wants d "hello garci" scandal tu closed d buk!
—mando rugas, 43, *davao city*

Hindi! Ang "hello garci" tape ang magiging susi ng pagtutuklas sa katotohanan ng kinukwestyung pgkapanalo kuno ni GMA
—Nolan Ariola, 30, *Pasig*

no. It shOuld instead open dOors fOr evry Filipino to hOpe for the truth to cOme out. Each 1 must nOt juz sit down..
—Vely silva, 26, *cotabato city*

if u closed d book of hello Garci, d worms of truth wil still come out! HELL U GARCI!!
—mando rugas, 43, *davao city*

they must be dreaming!
—rosalina abalos, 24, *pangasinan*

hello garci is never over. it remains hanging in d minds of every Filipino until GMA is made 2 answer of her grand larceny
—roland repato, 36, *vigan city*

A big NO! Only garci himself testifying under oath cud put a close 2 dis scandal.
—J. Urquico, *Bislig City*

d people involved in d Garci scandal owe an explanation 2d public 2 find out what's d truth.
—Gerald Relampagos, 30, *Davao City*

Message to the politicians: What will finally bring peace and prosperity to our nation?

kill themselves
—vic baap, jr., 47, *e.samar*

pls. stop politicking and focus on ur work, and d things dat wud bring FilipinOs 2geder, evn2ualy making every pilipinO at peace
—DAN TACALINAR, 23, *CDO city*

Cooperation and United of Country.
—Domingo G. Samontina, 16, *Surigao City*

politicians, kayo ang mga pinuno ng ating bansa sna karespi-respeto naman kayo, nang sa ganun respetuhen din kayo ng taong bayan.
—josephine esguerra, 26, *bacoor cavite*

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY will finally bring PEACE & PROSPERITY to our NATION.
—manny, 42, *davao city*

Stop bureaucratic corruption, implement social justice, respect human rights & assert genuine independence.
—Emelia P. Billanes, 40, *Koronadal City*

devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning. do the kind of things that come from the heart.
—ciony almuena, 23, *cdo*

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Comelec junks Dy Jr. case vs Padaca

DY JR.

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, ISABELA—THE SECOND DIVISION OF the Commission on Elections has dismissed the election protest of former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. against neophyte politician Ma. Gracia Cielo Padaca for its insufficiency in form and substance.

Dy's petition has "failed to comply with the mandatory and jurisdictional requirements of alleging the specific precincts and grounds of the protest," said the Comelec resolution promulgated on Oct. 25 and signed by Commissioners Mehol Sadain and Florentino Tuason Jr.

The office of Governor Padaca, a polio-stricken former broadcaster, received a copy of the resolution on Nov. 7.

The protest was filed by Dy Jr., the eldest son of Faustino Dy Sr. who ruled the province for more than three decades, following allegations that Padaca was supported by the New People's Army and that her May 2004 election victory was marred by massive violence, terrorism, and intimidation.

Dy questioned Padaca's victory and asked the poll body to void 243,355 ballots in Isabela's 35 towns and in Cauayan City.

He cited "massive violence, terrorism, and intimidation committed by the NPA in conspiracy and in connivance with (Padaca) to enhance her candidacy."

But the Comelec said the allegations were "not proper" for protest cases because the acts complained of were committed during the campaign period, before the casting of the ballots, or the preparation and transport of returns.

PADACA

No deadline for successor of Palparan

SOGOD, SOUTHERN LEYTE—MAJ. GENERAL Bonifacio Ramos, 8th Infantry Division commander, won't give himself a deadline to crush insurgency in Eastern Visayas unlike his controversial predecessor.

But he said he was optimistic that by early next year, the residents will be supportive of the military especially those from Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar.

"It's really up to the people of Eastern Visayas, particularly in three Samar provinces, if they want peace," he told a news conference on Nov. 18.

Ramos said his predecessor and now 7th ID chief, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, may have been "a purveyor of optimism when the latter vowed to crush the insurgency problem in the region within six months to one year."

But Ramos said that given the complexity of the problem, it was hard to predict when the problem would end.

"It could be shorter (than six months). It's a matter of enlightening the people. I hope we could replicate Southern Leyte in this area," he said.

Palparan made the fearless forecast when he assumed as 8th ID chief in February. Six months into his timetable, he was pulled out from his post amid pressure from some Samar congressmen who threatened to vote for the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo if the controversial general was not removed from the region.

Ramos, who hails from Maasin City, said Southern Leyte has attained a level where the people have rejected the insurgency because "political leaders make available government services to the villages." The province has been declared insurgency free.

Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau

Statue causes stir in Davao

DAVAO CITY—EVERYone's naked in the eyes of God—but a replica of Michelangelo's naked statue of David, which was built near a motel here has been causing uproar for several weeks already.

First it was a debate between morality and a work of art, reminiscent of the century when Italian sculptor Michelangelo Buonarotti first came up with his masterpiece in Florence, Italy.

Councilor Angela Librado-Trinidad said she could not have raised a howl if the statue was built somewhere else, not near a motel.

She said this would send a wrong signal to the public, and teach wrong values to the children.

Later, officials changed the issue to the legality of the statue saying it was built on land owned by the city government.

After weeks of threatening to demolish the structure, however, officials are now saying they are open to a compromise, probably putting a pair of pants on the statue, or underwear, or the classic fig leaf.

Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan said in jest he was disappointed by the statue's size, which is rather small, referring to the private parts that generated the strongest public reactions here.

Gazing at David's statue from the shade where his taxicab is parked, Romeo Salazar, a driver, said he could not see anything wrong with it.

"It just looks like my own body," he said, without a trace of malice on his face.

But Samid Kadalem, 26, a Moro tricycle driver plying in the area, appeared offended.

"That's a very bad statue," he says, angrily shaking his head as his tricycle heads toward Times Beach Resort. "People are not supposed to place it there."

Teodorico Adama, owner of the Queensland Development Corp., said he commissioned the statue to make the people of Davao proud of the work of art that graced only three cities in the world.

Beside the statue is a sign saying that the full size replicas of Michelangelo's masterpiece in Florence, Italy can be found only in London's Victoria and Albert Museum; in Australia's Queensland, Brisbane area as a centerpiece of a shopping mall in Surfer's Paradise; and in Las Vegas' Caesar's Palace. Davao will be the fourth city to host it, it says.

Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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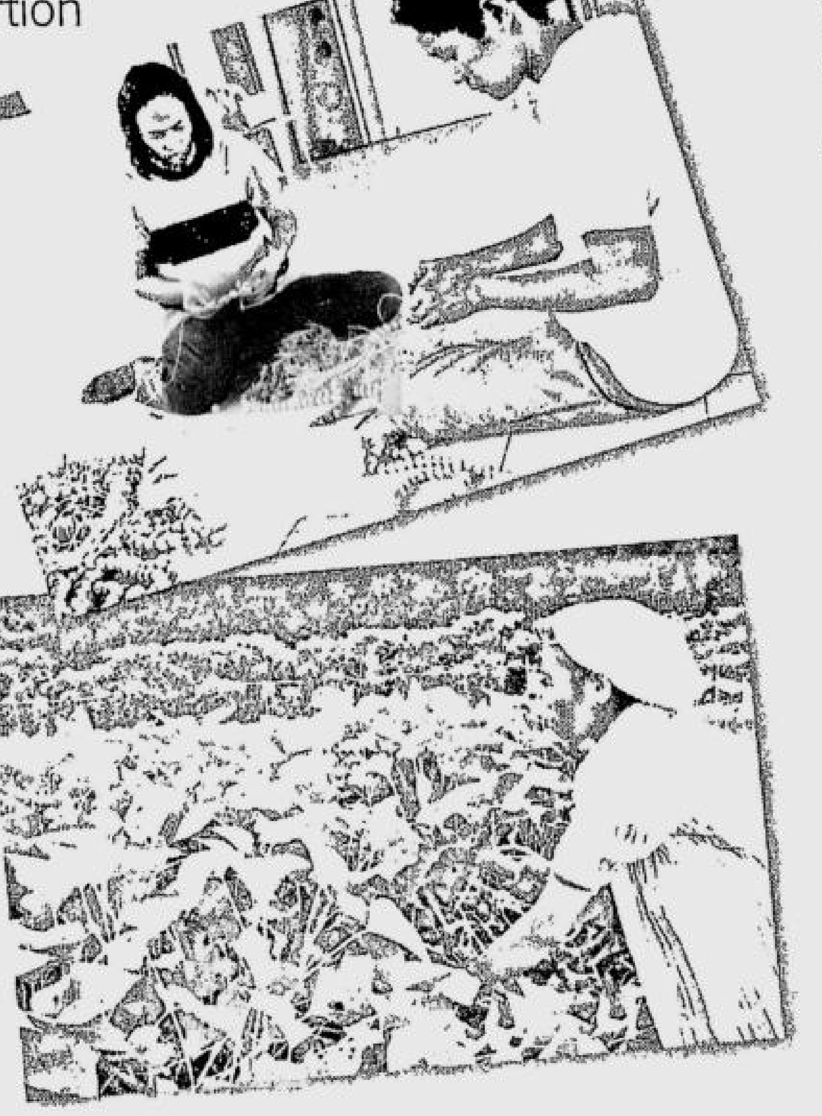


PROUD COLORS
JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO
Schoolchildren in Mabinay, Negros Occidental display Philippine flags that they made using paper and crayons.

Engineer becomes latest kidnap victim of Pentagon gang

LIBUNGAN, NORTH COTABATO—Heavily armed men, believed to be members of the Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang, seized early yesterday a businessman from his farm in Barangay Baguer here, local officials said.

Mayor Ronaldo Pader said the victim, engineer Barvick Araral, was abducted at about 7:45 a.m.

Pader said the kidnappers have yet to make any demand from the victim's family.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the 60-year-old Araral was driving his Nissan Pathfinder vehicle with license plate CXN-874 when flagged down by about ten gunmen.

The suspects then commandeered the victim's vehicle and fled toward nearby Midsayap town, also in this province.

Police said the getaway vehicle was later sighted in Barangay Dulawan in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, about an hour's drive from here.

Araral is a resident of Parang, Maguindanao but manages a rice field in Barangay Baguer.

Piñol said he already asked Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, chief of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) for Southern Mindanao, to help track down the suspects and rescue the victim.

The Pentagon is a known ally of the Abu Sayyaf, and is also engaged in kidnapping for ransom activities in Central Mindanao and the Western Mindanao area.

The kidnap gang rose to notoriety in the late 1980s when it abducted several Italian missionaries.

The group was also behind the abduction of four Chinese engineers and their Filipino guide from the government irrigation project in Carmen, North Cotabato.

Its founder, Faisal Marohomsalic, was later arrested but was killed in a police operation in Cavite after he escaped from jail.

Despite the series of military and police operation against the group in Central Mindanao, it continues to victimize mostly businessmen.

The Pentagon is still holding Filipino-Chinese trader Benny Kota, who was seized in Cotabato City in April this year.

Authorities claimed the suspects have been asking P10 million in ransom but the family refuses to give in. *Edwin Fernandez, Mindanao Bureau*

DENR office finds Lafayette at fault for spill

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DAMS THAT WERE SUPposed to contain the mine tailings from the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project in Albay were not yet sufficiently built to hold the mine waste and rainwater at the time of the mine spills, the Environmental Management Bureau revealed yesterday.

EMB Region 5 director Gilbert Gonzales said the second mine spill in Rapu-Rapu on Oct. 31 was caused by Lafayette's failed attempt to contain the mine tailings and rain water that fell on the upper and lower tailings dams.

He said Lafayette was aware that its upper tailings dam could not hold the volume of tailings and water, so it opened a portion of the upper tailings dam to let the mixture flow into the lower tailings pond and later to the settlings pond that overflowed to the creek.

"It (containing the discharge) was beyond the immediate capability of Lafayette. It requires a structure. The system was there but it was insufficient because of added factors like the rain," he told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

Gonzales said Lafayette was not supposed to operate until its tailings disposal system had been completed as required by its environmental compliance certificate.

"That's why we penalized them, because of such lapses. They were not supposed to operate. They were confident that the system can hold it … They underestimated the run-offs … They knew the situation, but they had limitations to put up the required measure," he said.

Gonzales' observations confirmed the findings of environmental groups who conducted an independent fact-finding mission in Rapu-Rapu and alleged that the dams were not strong enough to hold the tailings.

The Center for Environmental Concerns said the workers claimed they were told to open the dam and redirect the discharge to the creeks, which goes out to the Pacific Ocean (not Albay Gulf as earlier reported).

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau had said the workers' claim was rather far-fetched because there was no pipeline system linking the tailings dams to the sea.

An EMB report on the Oct. 31 mine spill, however, negated the MGB's statement.

But an official of Lafayette insisted the mining operations would continue and that they are safe.

Rogelio Corpuz, LPI acting general manager for operations, said as far as rehabilitation programs are concerned, the firm already outlined and classified these into short, medium and long term.

He said the firm was doing all it can to make its operations safer, especially since it is now rainy season. *With a report from Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Army warning drives Sulu folk to flee

COTABATO CITY—THE MILItary's warning about an impending full-scale operation against the Abu Sayyaf and their allies in Sulu has caused panic among residents, a ranking government official in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) said.

As this developed, two soldiers were injured when Abu Sayyaf bandits fired at them in Maimbung town according to Maj. Gamal Hayudini, public information officer of the military's Southern Command.

Hayudini said the soldiers were in a motorcycle to buy supplies when ambushed by a group led by Albader Parad in near Barangay Bilaan.

Social Welfare Secretary Ruby Sahali of the ARMM said after the distribution of leaflets informing people of the impending full-scale operation, the number of evacuees swelled to nearly 10,000.

"The English version of the leaflet was not alarming but the Tausug translation was what caused panic among the villagers," she said.

Sahali said the leaflets bore pictures of military hardware and asked residents to stay inside their houses or hide during the military operation.

"Tension among residents of Sulu has already started to subside by then, when fighting gradually stopped, except for few sporadic skirmishes in Indanan (town)," Sahali said.

But when military helicopters and planes began raining leaflets on Sulu, Sahali said tension rose anew.

The military's Southern Command earlier said it was distributing the leaflets to warn residents against going out of their homes when the military operation resumes.

Armed Forces chief Gen. Generoso Senga has ordered the full-scale operation after nearly a week of fighting in Indanao and Panamao towns that left four soldiers dead and more than a dozen others wounded.

Two civilians were also injured while the military estimated that the Abu Sayyaf and its ally, the Misuari Breakaway Group (MBG), suffered heavy casualties.

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said the leaflets "surprised us, because it was done without our knowledge." *Charlie Señase and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

VICTIM
ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU
A Ranger who was wounded when a landmine used by communist gunmen killed nine of his colleagues is wheeled into the Western Visayas Medical Center.

Samar group plans to sue DENR chief

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—THE SAMAR Island Biodiversity Foundation Inc. (SIBF) has hired a lawyer to look into the possibility of filing a case in court against Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, for issuing an order that allowed the resumption of logging operations on the island.

Fr. Cesar Aculan, SIBF president, said their lawyer sent a letter to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last Nov. 8, asking the agency to furnish them copies of all documents relative to Defensor's recent order that lifted the 16-year-old logging moratorium in Samar.

He said the filing of a case would depend on the decision of their Manila-based lawyer, Ronaldo Gutierrez, after going through the "public documents" they could get from the DENR.

The SIBF is a consortium of nongovernment organizations and people's organizations that are involved in environment protection and conservation in Northern Samar, Samar and Eastern Samar.

ROUNDUP

More positive news sought

DAVAO CITY—The Mindanao Council for Peace and Development (MPCD) has appealed to media and other sectors for more positive coverage of issues affecting the country today. During a workshop-seminar that the group sponsored here from Nov. 17-18, a tool called appreciative inquiry was introduced, which aims to "bring out the best in people and events" for the resolution of issues and concerns.

Madonna Virola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Play on peace set

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A stage play on peace, dubbed "Ugat, Puno at Bunga," will be staged from 6 p.m. on Nov. 25 at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University's Brebeuf Gymnasium. Using the Sulu war in 1974 as setting, the play was inspired by the book "The Enemy of War is War Itself," which was written by peace advocate Fr. Robert Layson, OMI. "The play is a new strategy in observance of the 4-year-old Mindanao Week of Peace," said Cecille Simbajon of the Ateneo Peace Institute. Artists from Jolo will be tapped and Tausug indigenous materials will be utilized for the play, which is aimed at strengthening Muslim-Christian relations.

Madonna Virola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tapping jatropha trees

BACOLOD CITY—The Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has formed a partnership with a farmers' cooperative and a bio-diesel firm to make jatropha trees a viable energy source. The PNOC-EDC on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Dacongcogon Producers Cooperative Marketing Association and D1 Oils Asia Pacific Inc for the Jatropha Plantation Project in Kabankalan City. The project involves the propagation of jatropha trees, locally known as casla, which has been identified as a potential source of feedstock for bio-fuel. The 37 percent oil content of the jatropha plant is seen as a substitute for diesel fuel.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Feeding program launched

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—The Catholic Church's "Pondo ng Pinoy" (PnP) project is launching a feeding program in various dioceses in Metro Manila and nearby provinces for malnourished children, regardless of their religions or sects. The San Pablo Diocese in Laguna is among the various dioceses outside Manila participating in the feeding program for its thousands of malnourished children, aged 3 to 5 years old, daily for five days and for a duration of six months.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Albay prepares for bird flu

LEGAZPI CITY—BE INFORMED and prepared. More than 100 of Albay's provincial officials, city and municipal mayors, agriculturists, veterinarians, health and local disaster coordinating officials were told that these were the best weapons against bird flu.

During the Avian Influenza Protection Training Workshop on Wednesday, the local officials created a task force and plotted disaster preparedness plans to cope with the avian flu that has ravaged neighboring Asian countries.

Part of a nationwide information campaign spearheaded by the National Avian Influenza Task Force under the Department of Agriculture, the Albay workshop provided an overview of the Asian disease and presented measures on its prevention and eradication.

The national bird flu watch caravan will go on a similar information campaign to Naga and Sorsogon.

"Creating awareness among the local government units is important as there are no guarantees the country will remain free of the dreaded virus," said Jose Dayao, DA assistant regional director for operations.

Dayao added that as part of preparations, LGUs need to enact ordinances on bird flu protection as done by the municipalities of Bulan, Matnog and Prieto Diaz in Sorsogon and the province of Camarines Norte.

"An ordinance is forthcoming in Camarines Sur," he said.

Sorsogon has been identified as one of 20 critical areas prioritized for surveillance by the national task force because of the presence of a big number of migratory birds, especially in Bulan and Matnog.

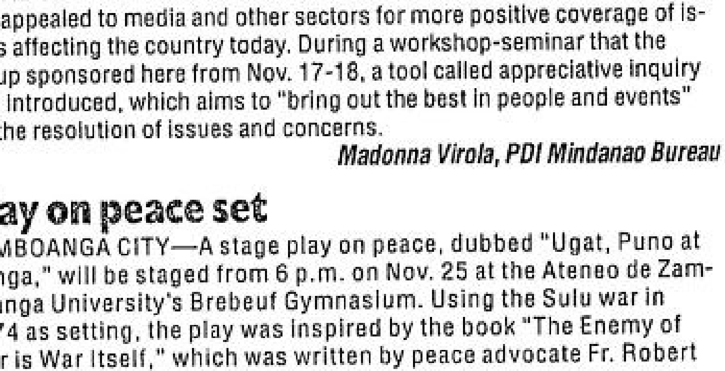
Rodolfo Benosa, Department of Interior and Local Government Albay provincial director, mustered the participation to the workshop of 17 local government units in Albay: Legazpi, Ligao, Tabacco, Bacacay, Camalig, Daraga, Guinobatan, Jovellar, Libon, Malilipot, Malinao, Manito, Oas, Polangui, Rapu-Rapu, Sto. Domingo and Tiwi.

At least 62 people who got the virus from poultry have died in the bird flu outbreaks in China, Vietnam and Thailand.

The Philippines is only one of three Asian countries, aside from Brunei and Singapore, which has been spared from the virus.

The World Health Organization said the deadly H5N1 virus could mutate into a form transferable from person-to-person, triggering outbreaks of pandemic proportions.

Health experts believe the country could still be exposed in case the virus emanates from other countries. *Gina Rodriguez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Yue Lan Feng, Asian Development Bank principal environment specialist, hands over a symbolic hat to Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn in appreciation of the mayor's support for an ADB program to eliminate air and noise pollution in the city.

Container van yields protected species

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD YESterday seized a sack of dried sea horses, a protected variety of small fish, from a container van with papers that said it was carrying a cargo of sea cucumbers.

The dried sea horses were found inside a 20-foot container van at Pier 10 that came from Cagayan de Oro and was supposed to be shipped to Vietnam. The owner of the shipment was identified as a certain Cesar Almendras.

Commander Leopoldo Laroya of the PCG said representatives from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) confirmed that the contents of the sack were sea horses.

Sea horses are covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement between governments, to which the Philippines is a signatory.

The marine animals are included in Appendix II of the CITES, which lists species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction but whose trade must be controlled to protect their survival. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction and whose trade is allowed only under special circumstances.

According to Laroya, the PCG placed the van under watch since Nov. 2 after receiving information that apart from sea cucumbers, it could contain other dried sea animals, some of which could be endangered. Sea cucumbers are not considered endangered and their trade is not regulated.

However, the PCG was not able to open the van immediately because the Bureau of Customs said it would first have to wait for the owner to appear. The owner never showed up.

On Friday last week, the BOC finally issued a warrant of seizure against the container van. The van actually contained some 245 sacks, but PCG and BFAR officials were only able to check one sack yesterday because of the cramped location at Pier 10. Laroya said the PCG had requested the shipping company that brought the van to Pier 10 to transfer it to the PCG premises in Farola Compound or in another, more spacious location so that its contents could be inspected properly. He said the PCG did not have forklifts and trucks to bring the van and its contents to another area for inspection.

The owner of the container van would also be held liable for misdeclaring its contents, Laroya added.

Seahorses are actually fishes with curved trunks, curved tails and heads that resemble a horse that are usually exported for their ornamental and purported medicinal value.

UP workers vow protest moves

By DJ Yap

DOZENS OF WORKERS AT THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines shared a humble dinner of instant noodles and dried fish on Sunday to symbolize many hungry nights as they awaited the release of their long delayed cost-of-living allowance (Cola).

Members of the All-UP Workers Union and the All-UP Academic Employees Union staged a vigil at Quezon Hall in front of the Oblation statue to reiterate their three-year-old demand for their Cola, now estimated at almost P1 billion. They warned that their protest action would continue until Nov. 24 to pressure the UP administration to authorize the release of the Cola due them for work rendered between 1989 and 1999.

In the next few days, administrative, research and extension staff and other UP employees will be coming in shifts to participate in the protest, said AUPWU president Clodualdo Cabrera. On Nov. 24, the protesters will attempt to mobilize all its forces from the entire UP system for a work stoppage, he warned.

Some 14 thousand UP employees are entitled to P60,000-P70,000 each in back pay, he said, but the UP administration had said it would wait for the Supreme Court to resolve the legality of the Cola release. Cabrera challenged the UP administration to exercise political will by releasing the Cola, citing the case of the Commission on Higher Education which had released the Cola to its employees.

BACK PAY
NG COLA
BAYARAN
BACK
NG C
BAYA

WILL it be a dismal Christmas for protesting UP employees, or a sumptuous Noche Buena, they want to know. JOAN BONDOC

CHR officials inspect slain suspects'car; autopsy requested

By Luige A. del Puerto

OFFICIALS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUman Rights (CHR) inspected yesterday in Camp Crame the bullet-riddled car of three alleged carjackers as they investigated the killing of the suspects in Pasig City.

The officials also checked the car of police reportedly involved in the shootout with the suspects. CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing lead the team, accompanied by commissioners Wilhelm Soriano and Eligio Mallari.

Members of the scene of the crime operatives (SOCO) who analyzed the crime scene are expected to appear at the CHR hearings today, according to the commission's legal and investigation office chief Flora Atilano.

Quisumbing said they wanted to know how many bullet entries were there and where the shots came from, and to match the information with accounts of how the alleged carjackers died.

"We are also awaiting the final report of the SOCO, which has ballistic information," she added.

PNP Crime Laboratory head Chief Supt. Ernesto Belen said bullet marks were found on the left side of the car, consistent with the officers' account of their position during the initial exchange of gunfire.

Quisumbing said the CHR was trying to get the permission of the family of Francis Manzano, one of the three suspects, to exhume his body. The bodies of the other suspects, Anton Cu-Unjieng and Brian Anthony Dulay, were cremated. Quisumbing said the CHR wanted to have Manzano's body autopsied anew.

Meanwhile, the driver of one of two Mercedes Benz cars found in a subdivision in Quezon City, where the police conducted a buy-bust operation last week, claimed the car yesterday. Manuel Batukan told police that three robbers, one of whom he later identified as Dulay, took the car around 6 a.m. on Oct. 24 on Pearl Drive inside Ortigas Center.

Supt. Eduardo Bayangos, chief of the Special Operations Groups of the Traffic Management Group, said the driver made the identification of Dulay at the funeral parlor where the slain suspects were brought. The TMG-SOG recovered on Wednesday night five cars inside the Vista Real Subdivision in Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, and arrested two men, Patrick Tuzon and Maurice Valenton, who were trying to sell a Nissan Patrol belonging to ABS CBN talent Iya Villania.

Rockwell security chief slain

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A SECURITY OFFICER OF ROCKWELL IN Makati City was killed inside his office at dawn yesterday.

Christian Laya was declared dead on arrival at the Acute Care Center of the city-run Ospital ng Makati.

The 35-year-old acting chief of security of the posh development project died of multiple stab wounds, the Makati Police Department (MPD) said.

MPD Homicide Section chief Senior Inspector Gary Reyes said they were establishing the motive for the killing, and would see if anyone in the security force had problems with the victim.

PO2 Nilo Sadsad, case investigator, said Laya's colleagues from the Southbend security agency saw a man hurriedly leaving the victim's office on Amapola corner Estrella Street inside Rockwell Center around 1 a.m. yesterday.

Security guard Arnold Almerol said he and other security guards chased the man but lost him.

MPD-Homicide also investigated another killing some four hours earlier, just a few blocks from Rockwell Center.

Renato Ortiz, 23, of Laperal Compound in Barangay Guadalupe Viejo, had a lone gunshot in the neck, said investigator SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal.

Kidnap suspect dared to face music

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE FATHER OF A 3-YEAR-OLD KIDnap victim is asking Suzette Wang, a co-accused of actor and former Quezon City Rep. Dennis Roldan to appear in court.

"She said earlier she would see us in court. But where is she now?" Roger Yu said in a phone interview.

Wang, Roldan and five others are accused of kidnapping Yu's son in February, demanding a P250 million ransom. The actor and four others are detained at the Pasig City Jail. Defendant Octavio Garces, a witness against Roldan, is at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center.

Wang, who was a friend of the victim's family, is at large.

Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Agnes Carpio issued an arrest warrant and a hold departure order against Wang in August.

A total of P550,000 reward was being offered for information on Wang.

Why AFP is losing to the NPA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE GOVERNMENT SUFFERED another defeat at the hands of the communist New People's Army when guerrillas ambushed a military patrol, killing nine and wounding 20 others in Iloilo.

At the rate soldiers are being killed by the NPAs, the Armed Forces of the Philippines might be decimated!

The rebels used land mines in the Iloilo ambush, an act which the AFP condemned.

The AFP said the use of land mines is banned by the Geneva Convention.

Look, the AFP must be reminded that guerrillas, including the NPAs, are not bound by the Geneva Convention.

So, instead of complaining, why doesn't the AFP give the guerrillas a dose of their own medicine?

If the AFP doesn't admit that the NPAs are trouncing government troops, ask barrio folk who have had contacts with the guerrillas what kind of weapons they're using.

The NPAs carry weapons that government soldiers carry. The No. 1 source of weapons of the NPA are government troops they killed in ambuscades.

A national security official told me that the military-NPA kill ratio is one to one. This means for every NPA guerrilla killed, one government soldier is also killed.

There was a time when the military-communist guerrillas ratio was 20 guerrillas killed against one government soldier.

Why does the AFP suffer defeat after defeat at the hands of the NPAs?

The primary reason is poor intelligence. The military is not fed the right information about the movements of the rebels or their hiding places.

Why? Because there is little budget for intelligence. And the little budget set aside from paying off informants is pocketed by the AFP top brass.

Another reason why the military is not winning the war against the communist rebels is the sympathy civilians in remote barrios have for the rebels.

There is little or no government presence in areas where the local populace support or sympathize with the NPAs.

For example, when a farmer's carabao is stolen in a remote barangay he doesn't run to the police but to the NPA. The NPAs are quick in meting out their own brand of justice against robbers and other criminals that prey on barrio folk.

Yet another reason for the NPA winning the war against government troops is that soldiers want to ride in vehicles and don't want to walk while on patrol.

NPA guerrillas are highly mobile because they walk in small groups, whereas government troops go out on patrol in platoons (20 to 40 men).

A small group moves fast and can go far without being detected. A big group, on the other hand, is slow and easily detected.

Why doesn't the AFP break up its divisions and brigades into battalion combat teams (BCTs) that were very effective against the Huks during Magsaysay's time?

A BCT was a complete unit. It had tank, artillery and air support. It moved fast because it was compact. BCTs are very effective in guerrilla warfare.

Long-playing Yule show finds home

From page A18

opened on Wednesday, features magicians, clowns, and cyclists made of fiber glass, moving in front of three-dimensional replicas of a church, a castle and a ferris wheel. The free show is accompanied by a narration and background music. It runs for 30 minutes and is replayed from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. with 15-minute intervals.

Spectators will never know that this year's display, the biggest Rosario and his team has produced so far, began with a cardboard Santa Claus hung on a display window of a small stall on Rizal Avenue, when the Light Rail Transit was still a dream.

The tradition started as a marketing strategy when the COD Department Store was still a struggling business in 1963.

"I thought that if something moved in a display window, pedestrians would be tempted to look. And when they do, they will have to look at our merchandise too," Rosario said.

The strategy worked. When the Rosarios opened their 7-floor store at the Araneta Center in 1966, they set a new trend in holiday decorations with figures of Cinderella dancing with her prince in front of a castle, on a 50-meter ledge in front of the building. The characters, run by motors, were papier mâché figures, which had to be repainted after being soaked in the rain.

Four years later, Rosario and his team, including Alberto Aguirre, now 67, started using mannequins made of fiber glass.

Working in a warehouse at the back of the building, the men outdid themselves every year. The displays started to tell a story, which the animated mannequins acted out, in front of life-sized backdrops.

The hardest they had done so far was called "Christmas Galactica" showing a simulated spaceship descending several floors carrying the Three Kings on their way to pay homage to the Infant Jesus. Another spaceship contained Santa Claus.

"The cost of the displays became more and more expensive, but the company's dedication to the project enabled us to carry on," Rosario said. Before long, the mall at the edge of the Araneta Center became a popular destination even for tourists during Christmas.

The displays were so well-loved that admirers started sending cakes and cookies (and even letters from abroad) to the creative team.

Because of the tedious work put on the project, Rosario starts conceptualizing the decorations while a display is still ongoing. Once approved, the idea is transferred into a sketch by an artist by January. The drawing becomes the basis for the mannequins and the animation, created as early as May. Rosario outsources the background music and the script for the narration.

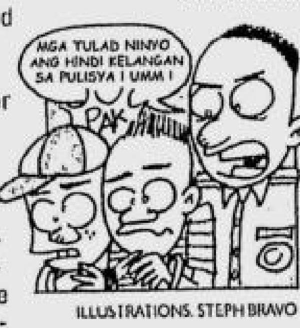
"A lot of companies and stores tried to copy our animated displays, but they failed to sustain their projects," said a visibly proud Rosario. "I am proud to say that our team's loyalty to the company and to the displays is very strong. This is what has kept us going all these years," he added. "My children and Greenhills can take over. It is a tradition worth continuing. My dream is for the displays to last another 40 years or more."

METROBRIEFS

Starting on wrong foot

POLICE arrested over the weekend two rookie policemen who commandeered a taxi in Taguig City. Metro Manila Police chief Director Vidal Querol identified the suspects as P01 Sherwin Somera, 23, and P01 Hermie Taroma Jr., 29. Somera was recently assigned to the Taguig Police's Station 7; Taroma was with the Eastern Police District. Police said the two could be behind robberies inside the Global City in Taguig. Operatives arrested the officers after getting a call about an ongoing robbery inside a taxi in the commercial district. The taxi driver, Ricardo Espina, said the two policemen stopped and commandeered his car in Diego Silang, Taguig, at gunpoint and forced another taxi driver, Ricky Magbanua, to board his cab. Police soon caught up with the officers.

Luige del Puerto


MGA TULAD NINYO ANG HINDI KELANGAN SA PULISYA ! UMM !
PAK

ILLUSTRATIONS. STEPH BRAVO

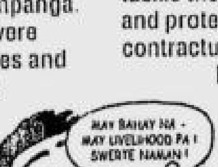
Valenzuela's mango project

APART from new homes, informal settlers in Valenzuela City would also receive 10,000 Guimaras carabao mango root stocks as part of the city's Livelihood Development Program. The more than a thousand members of the Kapisanan ng mga Samahan sa Riles Valenzuela (Kasarival) were part of those affected by the ongoing Northrail project which would run from Caloocan City to Pampanga. "One hundred members were trained to graft mango trees and who, in turn, would share their know-how with other members of the association," said Department of Agriculture's (DA)Tita Garcia. The DA would buy the grafted mango trees from homeowners which must be grown first at their respective lots. A small percentage must be given to the homeowner's association to be used to buy stocks for continuous grafting, Garcia said. The project is meant to augment the income of people who live in depressed areas.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Seafarers' forum

THE INTERNATIONAL Seafarers Action Center (ISAC) Phil. Foundation Inc. will hold a round table discussion on Social Insurance and Protection for Filipino Seafarers tomorrow, 2:30 p.m. at the Panay Room of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel at the CCP Complex. The forum, the 10th in a series of talks convened by ISAC, will tackle the problem of providing social insurance and protection to Filipino seafarers due to the contractual nature of overseas employment. The impact of the proposed ILO Maritime Superconvention on this problem will also be discussed. Invited resource speakers from the OWWA, Philhealth, SSS, ECC, ILO, ITF affiliates and other stakeholders will give a brief presentation, followed by an open forum. Advanced reservations are required because of limited seats. Contact Tina or Slony at 9207433 and 9240526/e-mail: info@isac.org.ph.


MAY BAHAY NA - MAY LIVELIHOOD PA ! SWERTE NAMAN !

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**

Yule show finds home

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A 43-YEAR-OLD GRAND SHOW which has delighted several generations at Christmas time has found a new home.

Standing in front of the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan town is an P8-million Christmas display that promises to awe spectators with its mobile mannequins and elaborate lights.

Alejandro Rosario, 81, and his creative team are behind the tradition, a back-breaking enterprise that began with pieces of cardboard and plywood four decades ago that had evolved into the famous COD Department Store Christmas Displays at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

"The displays meant sharing not only material things but the joys of Christmas with all kinds of people," Rosario told the INQUIRER.

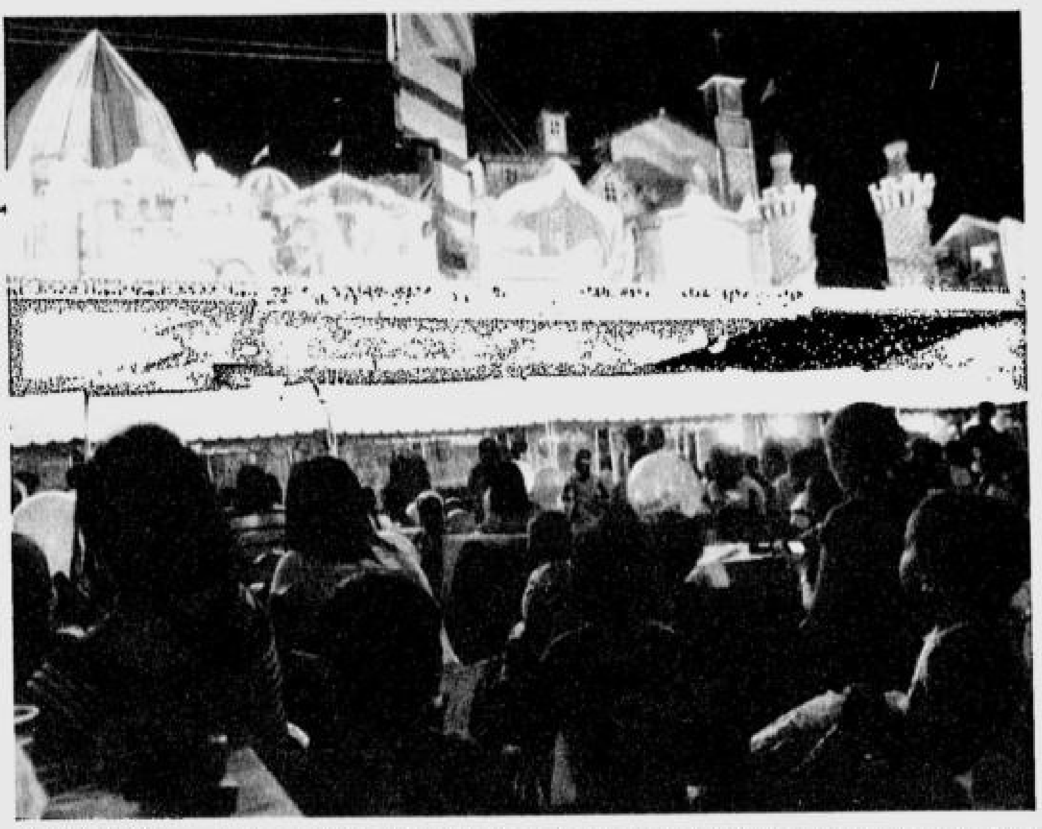
Plummeting sales made Rosario decide to close down the once popular department store three years ago, threatening to end his yearly display. But Greenhills management came to the rescue and gave it a new home in 2003. Not many who followed the shows knew of the transfer.

"We want our people to feel the true spirit of Christmas through the display, especially now that we are always confronted with bad news," Greenhills manager Joey Santos, himself a fan of the COD Displays since he was 7, said.

This year, the display is named "Christmas Carnival," boasting of over 50 animated mannequins in a story of a boy on his way to a church with his father who gets lost in a carnival setting.

The display, which formally

LONG-PLAYING YULE/ A17



CHRISTMAS wonderland at Greenhills Shopping Center with familiar COD display. ERIK ARAZAS

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* The new card design is initially available in Metro Manila.

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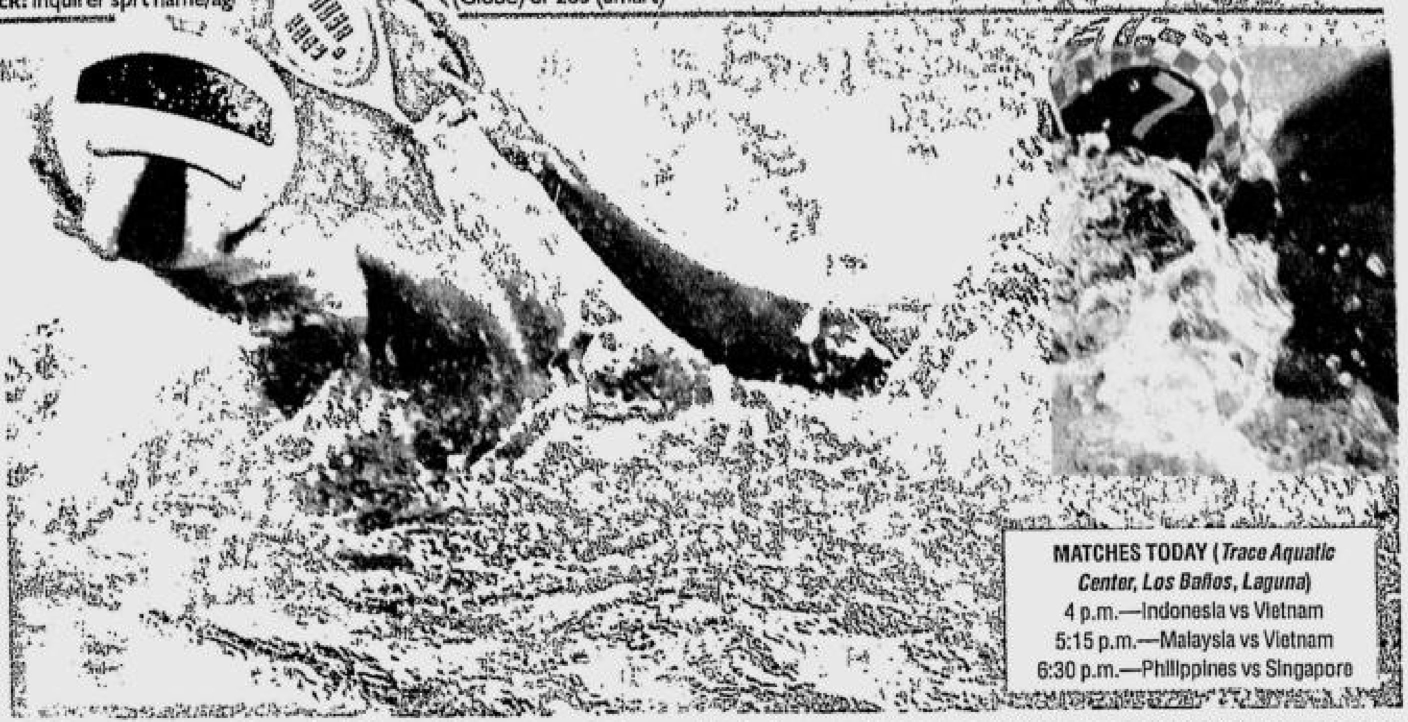
Pinoys rap Indons in water polo


RP Team top-scorer Monsuito Pelenio (left) gets ready to score but is thwarted by Indonesia's T. Dean Baldwin (7). EDWIN BACASMAS

MATCHES TODAY (*Trace Aquatic Center, Los Baños, Laguna*)
4 p.m.—Indonesia vs Vietnam
5:15 p.m.—Malaysia vs Vietnam
6:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Singapore

LOS BAÑOS—THE PHILIPPINES RELIED ON BROTHERS Ali, Frazier and Norton Alamara to down Indonesia, 15-10, yesterday and draw first blood in the water polo competition of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Trace Aquatics Center here.

Named after boxing's legendary American heavyweight champions, the trio combined for five goals, most of them in the final period to secure the Filipinos' first win in the round-robin eliminations.

Thailand, the 2003 SEAG silver medalist, beat Vietnam, 7-5, in the second game.

Monsuito Pelenio topscored with four goals, all of them in the first quarter, for the Filipinos, who are hoping to finally win their first ever gold in the sport.

"The team maintained a high level of aggressiveness and showed a lot of heart," said Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph. "This (win) will inspire them when they go up against Singapore tomorrow."

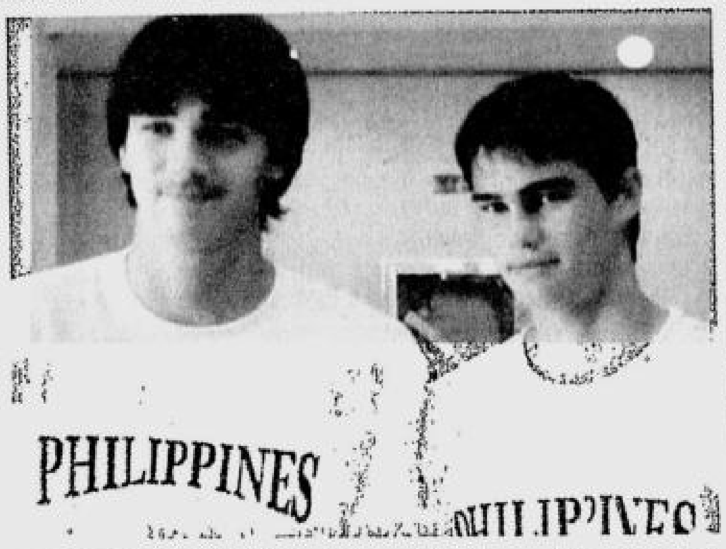
The Singaporeans, the reigning SEAG champions who beat the Filipinos by one goal during the Vietnam SEAG semifinals, boast of a Russian coach and solid foreign exposure.

With a 9-8 lead at the start of the fourth period, Norton Alamara came through with back-to-back goals while Ali Alamara added another in the last four minutes as the nationals padded their margin to 12-8, which the Indonesians failed to overhaul.

Almax Laurel, son of movie actor Max Laurel of Zuma fame, also knocked in three goals to make things hard for the Russian-coached Indonesians, fourth placers in the Vietnam SEAG in 2003.

Frazier and Norton Alamara finished with two goals each, while Ali, Danny Dela Torre, Sherwin Dela Paz, and Dale Evangelista scored one each.

The Philippines got off to a hot start when Pelenio fired home two goals. But the Indonesians quickly fought back through Lucky Damapoli and Heriansyah Saragih to tie the count, 2-2, at the 2:34 mark of the opening quarter. *Marc Anthony Reyes*


PROUD TO SERVE: Filipino-Britons Philip James Younghusband (left) and younger brother James Joseph.

Younghusbands and RP football make fine couple

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—BELIEVE IT or not, it took a video game to discover these two brothers, who might just provide the extra kick Philippine football badly needs to land a medal in the Southeast Asian Games.

But young Filipino-British brothers Philip James and James Joseph Younghusband—who were discovered after their names were listed on the roster of English club Chelsea in the FIFA playstation game—do not seem to get bothered by the pressure at all.

"We have a great team and I'm confident that everyone will deliver," said 18-year-old Philip James, a striker and the younger of the two brothers. "It's not only me and James, football is a team sport."

The Philippines' string of disappointing results in recent years has paved the way for its 189th ranking in world football, flanked by Bhutan (188) and Cook Islands (190).

But with the brothers' arrival and a slew of foreign-raised Filipinos in the fold, there's reason behind the optimism of Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez.

"RP football has gotten stronger because of them," said Romualdez

"It's just a matter of time [before we get back to the top]," he added, referring to the country's chances of becoming one of Asia's best—a tag the Philippines held in 1930s up to early in the 1970s.

Born 11 months apart, the Younghusbands are among the six Fil-foreigners who will spearhead the Filipinos when they take on defending champion Thailand in their first game at the Panaad pitch tomorrow.

Despite their youth, both Phil and James are no strangers to high-level competition. They both played for top-flight English club Chelsea's farm team since they were 10 and Philip swears he's scored more than 100 goals for the squad.

In fact, before they left England two weeks ago, Philip, who stands 5-foot-11, scored three goals in the last six matches of Chelsea 's division II team. The club recognized his potential early this year by giving him a place in the pre-season premiere league roster, giving him the rare opportunity to play with stars John Terry, Arjen Robben, Frank Lampard and Joe Cole.

The Younghusbands also hope to play an important role as the country bids for its first-ever SEAG medal.

YOUNGHUSBANDS/ A20

Malaysians overpower Cambodian booters

GAMES TODAY (*Bacolod City Sports Complex*)
4 p.m.—Vietnam vs Laos
6:30 p.m.—Indonesia vs Myanmar

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A GLITTERING DISPLAY OF attacking football boosted shorthanded Malaysia to a 5-0 shutout of Cambodia last night in a fight-marred Group A match in the Southeast Asian Games at the Panaad pitch here.

Leftwinger Surendren Rasiah kicked off and completed the scoring for Malaysia, which played the last 40 minutes minus star striker Rudie Bin Ramil, who was sent off for verbal abuse.

Rasiah met Thirumurugan Veeran's free kick with a header from the far post in the eighth minute, and Zairo Anuar Bin Zalani made it 2-0 in the 40th, finishing off a dazzling run with a curling right-footed rocket from 25 yards out.

MALAYSIANS/ A20

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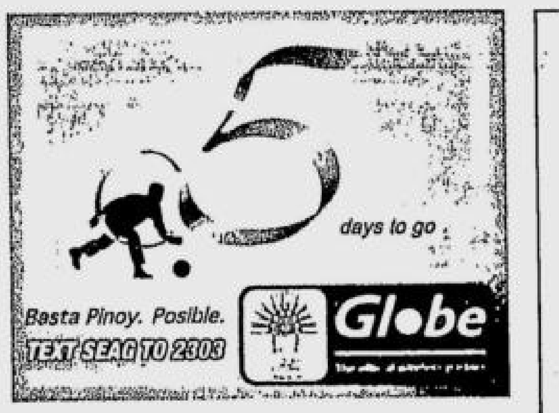
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Globe

RP pugs glad to be fighting on home soil

By Christian Irl Tan
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—For seven members of the Philippine boxing team, representing the country in this year's Southeast Asian Games here is a "special homecoming."

"I'm laying it all on the line to bring home the gold because I will be fighting in front of my province-mates," two-time Asian women's champion Mitchel Martinez, whose family will also be seeing her in action for the first time, said in Visayan.

RP/ A21

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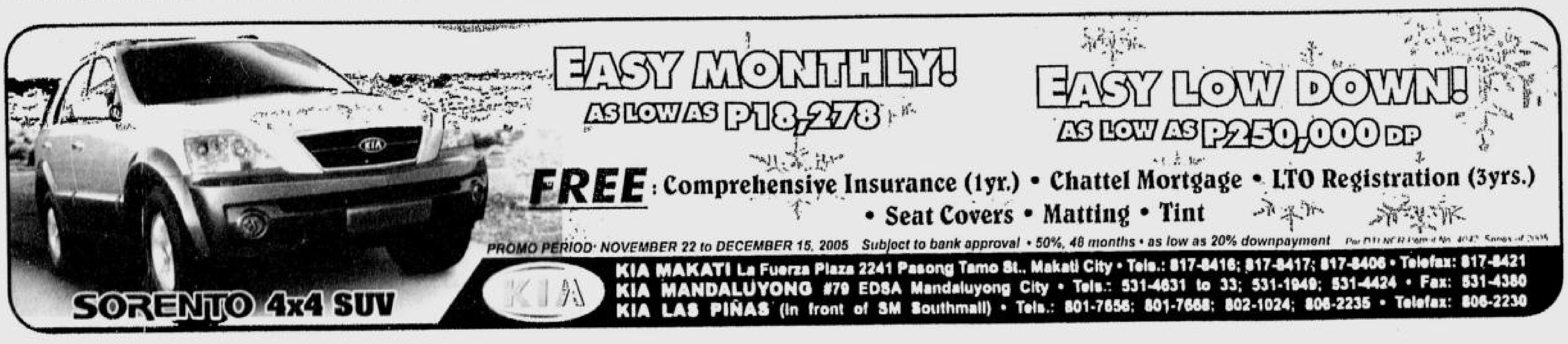
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BAP files contempt raps vs POC

By Roy Luarca

COJUANGCO

LINA

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines yesterday filed a petition for contempt against the Philippine Olympic Committee for ignoring an order by a Manila Regional Trial Court that the local Olympic body reinstate the cage body in its roster of members.

The civil case filed at the court's Branch 54 by Christian Tan, BAP executive vice president, named respondents were POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, chairman Robert Aventajado and secretary general Steve Hontiveros as respondents.

The same court had earlier issued a writ of preliminary mandatory injunction against the POC on Nov. 17, ordering the local Olympic body to "restore, reinstate and recognize" the BAP "with the same rights, privileges and status as was enjoyed by or accorded to said entity prior to the suspension and/or expulsion."

The POC expelled the BAP last June 30.

BAP president Joey Lina explained that a preliminary mandatory injunction, once it is issued and served on the respondent (POC), is immediately executory.

"Unless a higher court restrains the lower court (RTC), then the respondent has no choice but to comply," he said.

Non-compliance is disobedience and therefore a contempt of the court, Lina added.

Lina said even if the POC files an appeal, it will not stop the RTC order, unless a higher court issues a temporary restraining order.

The POC refused to comment on the latest legal action by the BAP.

In a press statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, the POC said that involving the legal institutions "has transformed (the basketball case) into a legal question instead of a legitimate sports issue.

"Since the International Olympic Committee prohibits this type of intervention on the affairs of our Olympic Family, the POC has tasked legal counsel Ding Tanjuatcoto respond to all queries on POC's further action in response to the Manila Regional Trial Court order last Nov. 17," the statement said.

POC spokesman Joey Romasanta, on the other hand, said: "That (court case) is the least of our worries. The biggest concern is right before us, the SEA Games."

The SEAG officially opens on Nov. 27.

Lina said the BAP was compelled to seek redress with the court because "time is running out (on the holding of basketball competitions in the 23rd SEAG)."

"The (likely) non-staging of the cage competitions is causing a lot of disappointment among our basketball-adoring countrymen," said Lina, insisting that there's still time to hold basketball if the POC so wishes.

Reinstating the BAP means an automatic lifting of the Fiba suspension of the Philippines which in turn clears the way for the staging of basketball in the SEAG.

Lina said the presidents of the Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia basketball associations and other members of the SEA Games Federation, have informed the BAP of their readiness to come over in a moment's notice.

"They (SEAG countries) are ready to come if they're informed by their National Olympic Committee's, which in turn will be notified by the POC," he said.

The POC had earlier informed the SEA Games Federation of its decision to scrap basketball, where the Philippines is the reigning men's titlist, since the BAP has been expelled from its roster.

The POC had earlier failed to convince the international basketball federation (Fiba) to lift the suspension it imposed on the Philippine due to the continuing rift between the BAP and the POC. *With additional report from Musong R. Castillo*

COOLER heads try to separate their agitated teammates as tempers flare during the Malaysia-Cambodia match yesterday.

Malaysians overpower Cambodians

From page A19

Malaysia, hoping to end a 16-year SEAG title drought, recorded its third goal in injury time of the first half as Azian Bin Ismali's left-footed volley hit the net despite being partially deflected by Cambodian defender Om Thavrak.

With Cambodian prince Norodom Buddhapong watching from the VIP box, the match took an ugly twist in the 21st minute when Thavrak tackled Fadzil Bin Shaari, triggering a near free-for-all before referee U Win Cho of Myanmar stepped in to restore order. Thavrak and Shaari were booked with a yellow card each.

The Malaysian booters sustained their assault even without Ramil and were rewarded in the 60th minute when Zalani's pinpoint cross was headed in by Fadzil Bin Shaari. Rasiah's close-range strike, which easily beat keeper Ouk Mic seven minutes from time, pegged the final count.

Malaysia actually made a critical coaching change just two months before the Games, replacing Hungarian coach Bertalan Bieskei with local Norizan Bakar in the aftermath of its humiliating 7-0 loss at the hands of Thailand in the pre-SEA Games event in Bangkok.

Cambodia only had four golden opportunities to break through but could not convert with Malaysian keeper Saiful Amar Bin Sudar producing two marvelous saves in each half to the delight of the lean crowd.

Malaysia and Cambodia are grouped with the RP booters, whose highly anticipated clash against the defending champion Thais is scheduled at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Panaad pitch.

Younghusbands and RP . . .

From page A19

"It's an honor to don the Philippines jersey," the brothers, whose mother, Susan Placeo, met their British father, Philip James Sr., during a holiday visit in Manila 20 years, said.

"The team's spirits are very high," said James, who, like his brother learned football through the prodding of their father at the tender age of five. "We (me and Phil) are bonding well with our teammates off the pitch."

Phil said he will be pacing RP's attack: "I can help with my composure on the ball which is critical in controlling possession and the game."

"Our chances are very good," said the 6-foot-1 James, who plays midfield. "I look at other teams and us, we are quite similar."

The Younghusbands, who hold both British and Philippine passports, said they will fly to London to play for Chelsea after the SEA Games but were quick to add that they do not have second thoughts for another tour of duty for the Philippines.

And they're welcome anytime.

'ANTI-FILIPINO'

CF official accused of giving away RP home-course edge

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE NATIONAL CYCLING TEAM may have lost its homecourt edge to rival Indonesia.

The Philippine Cycling Federation (PhilCycling) is up in arms over the action of an official of the Casino Filipino Continental Team for helping the Indonesian squad tour the Tagaytay route of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games road races.

"That's anti-Filipino," said PhilCycling secretary general Mar Mendoza. "I know it's part of our culture to be gracious hosts, but in an event where route knowledge counts as a crucial factor, we were hoping that our national riders, who have been training really hard, would at least have an edge.

"It's really sad because we were counting on our course knowledge to get an advantage.

The foreign delegation—led by Indonesian Cycling Federation secretary general Sofian Rozian—managed to tour the Tagaytay route three weeks ago after Ric Rodriguez reportedly ordered his driver to make the country's SEA Games rival familiar with the route.

But Rodriguez, the team manager of the Casino Filipino Continental Team—a professional squad that races in Asia, said he received the blessings of PhilCycling and the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee.

"The Indonesians requested for an ocular inspection, but I verbally informed our officials," said Rodriguez, citing PhilCycling director Paquito Rivas and Philsoc head Peping Cojuangco as among those he informed. "I acted on behalf of these people."

PhilCycling, however, denied Rodriguez's claim and maintained that the official failed to endorse the Indonesian team to PhilCycling, which is the protocol in such events.

"The PhilCycling board will seriously look at this and act on it once we convene after the Games," said Mendoza.

Two years ago, in Vietnam, the country's national cyclists managed to see the route but organizers changed it days before the actual competition.

"They're making it a big issue," said Rodriguez. "Every member-nation already received a copy of the race route. And when we race abroad, we also go one week ahead to look into the route. The Indonesians are also serious in their bid."

"It doesn't mean I'm anti-Filipino," added Rodriguez. "The main purpose of the SEA Games is to promote friendship among nations."

The Casino Filipino squad has been at odds with the PhilCycling in the past. PhilCycling claims the squad has misrepresented itself as the national team in several international meets.

GOLDEN HOPE: Mary Antoinette Rivero AP

Olympians head strong Filipino jins

THE PETRON PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO TEAM is determined to surpass its showing in Vietnam two years ago when it vies for honors in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here.

Athens Olympians Donald David Geisler (lightweight), Tshomlee Go (bantam) and Mary Antoinette Rivero (light) banner the well-trained squad in the competition set Nov. 28 to 30 at the Cuneta Astrodome. Other members of the team formed by the Philippine Taekwondo Association headed by Robert N. Aventajado are:

Men—John Paul Lizardo (finweight), Jeffrey Figuero (fly), Manuel Rivero Jr. (feather), Alexander Briones (welter), Dax Alberto Morfe (middle) and Michael Alejandrino (heavy).

Women—Kathleen Eunice Alora (fin), Loraine Loreli Catalan (fly), Esther Marie Singson (bantam), Kirstie Elaine Alora (feather), Ma. Criselda Roxas (welter), Veronica Domingo (middle) and Sally solis (heavy).

Mentors: Stephen Fernandez, head; (Men) Victor Emmanuel Veneracion, Jesus Morales III; (Women) Roberto Cruz, Raul Samson.

Gov't intervention a big 'no-no' in sports

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHEN FRENCH NOBLEMAN BARON Pierre de Coubertin first developed his vision of the Modern Olympic Games more than a century ago, his thinking went far beyond the mere establishment of an international sporting event. He also envisioned spreading the Olympic ideals of fair play, sincerity, peace and goodwill.

It is because of this second reason that I am again writing about the never-ending conflict between Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Joey Lina, head of the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines, a feud which is doing more harm than good to sports in general and the Filipino athletes in particular.

The recent decision of the Manila Regional Trial Court ordering the POC to reinstate the BAP to its roster of members did not sit well with many NSA (national sports association) officials who voted for the expulsion of the BAP, saying they would rather go to jail than change their minds.

"Enough is enough," they said.

For his part, chess and athletics president Go Teng Kok said he voted for the ouster of the BAP because he was concerned with the embarrassing performances of BAP-supported national teams in recent months under secretary general Graham Lim, who is facing deportation, and national team coach Boyzie Zamar.

Even former tennis president and POC vice president Buddy Andrada claimed BAP officials committed a "mortal sin" by seeking the intervention of the courts, instead of resolving their problems within the structures of the Olympic movement. By going to court, did the BAP not violate the Olympic Charter? he asked.

The BAP can only blame itself for its misfortunes. It should not complain and seek the intervention of the courts after a huge majority of the members of the POC general assembly, the supreme authority in the POC, voted 33-to-1 for its ouster.

As IOC representative to the Philippines Frank Elizalde told this writer, "The courts cannot intervene in a purely sports matter." He added the Philippines could earn the ire of the IOC because of the BAP action.

Former POC president and retired Col. Julian Malonso said he was glad to know that Mr. Elizalde has finally denounced government intervention in sports. "He has redeemed himself as a member of the IOC."

Item 31.5 of the Olympic Charter provides that all NOCs (the POC in this case) shall preserve their autonomy and resist all pressures of any kind, including those of a political, religious or economic (and legal) nature, that may prevent them from complying with the Olympic Charter.

The charter also states that should the POC be compelled by a court or any government body which may hamper its activity, the IOC will not decide against the order of the government, but would instead resort to suspending the NOC (or POC) or withdrawing its recognition.

Once the Philippines is suspended by the IOC, it is not only the basketball players that will suffer but also all the other Filipino athletes as they will be suspended and deprived of the chance to participate in international tournaments.

The BAP should back off.

Even the Philippine Supreme Court does not favor the intrusion of the courts in purely sports disputes, stressing that legal notions must not be allowed to intrude at every level in the enforcement of the rules of sporting activities, or there will be chaos. There are rules that must be followed to ensure fairness, peace and harmony. Respect for decisions of officials duly authorized to execute these rules must at all times be shown.

On the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games, we should not bank solely on winning one gold medal in basketball. We should also pin our hopes on the other 38-plus sports in our quest for the overall title.

Catubay seeks vacant OPBF fly title today

AFTER MALCOLM TUÑACAO'S big win, Federico "Magnifico" Catubay tries to duplicate the feat when he fights Noriyuki Komatsu of Japan today for the vacant Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation flyweight title at the Prefectural Gym in Osaka, Japan.

Catubay came in at a trim 110 lbs in yesterday's official weigh-in, while Komatsu had to shed off an extra pound before making the regulatory weight limit of 112.

Catubay's trainer Edmund Villamor had talked at length of his ward's rigid preparation at the ALA Gym of Cebu for today's fight before he and Catubay left for Osaka.

"He plans to attack Komatsu's chin all throughout the fight and see if it holds up," said Villamor.

This will be Catubay's second attempt at the same title, having lost in his first try against Australia-based Lebanese Hussein Hussein early this year.

Catubay will be cheered from the sidelines by new OPBF bantam king Tuñacao and OPBF minimumweight kingpin Rodel Mayol. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Spring Oil cagers down Mediatrix, advance to semis

SPRING COOKING OIL NEEDED A BIG finish to repulse Mediatrix, 67-62, and clinch the second outright semifinal berth in the 2005 PICAA Open basketball tournament at the Philippine Buddhacare gym in Quezon City.

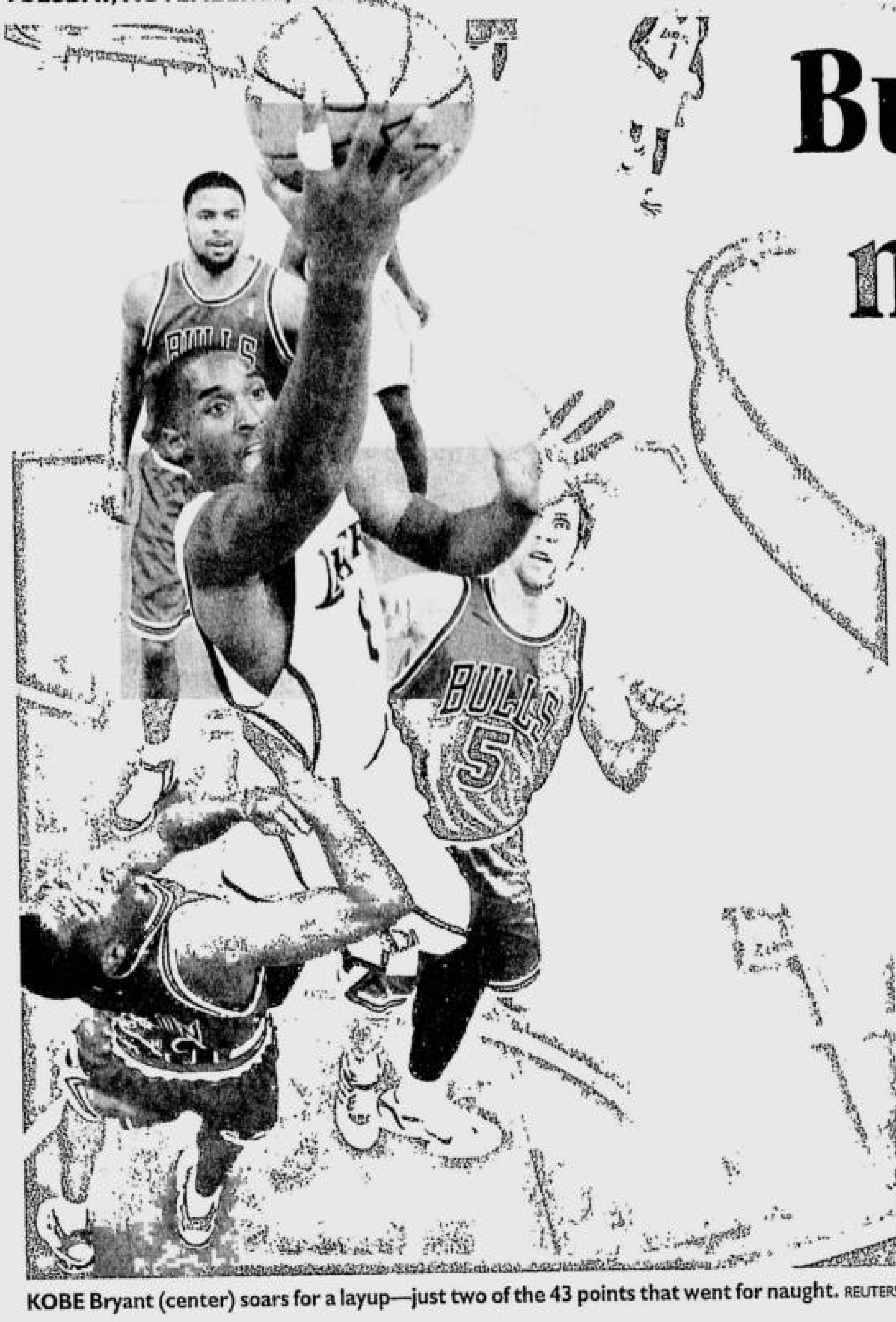
Chito Vectolero nailed a short jumper for the go-ahead basket and Gilbert Neo went 3-of-4 from the free throw line as national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters broke away from a 62-62 tie in the last two minutes to seal its sixth win in seven games in the tournament sponsored by Hang Ten, Tomish Cafe (Dapitan), Chloe Lightings and Absorba Sportswear.

With the win, Spring joined unbeaten King's Bakeshop in the semis and gained a twice-to-beat advantage.

"The boys were determined to win," said coach Efren "Yong" Garcia and Spring consultant Tito Palma. "We're happy to be in the semifinals."

Former FedEx slotman Ryan Bernardo scored the winning basket as Mail&More-Burlington nipped UCM-Lyceum, 89-88, in overtime in the other game.

Bulls spoil hot night of Kobe


KOBE Bryant (center) soars for a layup—just two of the 43 points that went for naught. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—CHRIS DUHON SCORED 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, and Chicago beat the Lakers despite 43 points by Kobe Bryant, matching an NBA single-game high this season.

Michael Sweetney added 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls in their first victory after three losses on their annual Western swing while the circus is at the United Center. Chicago is 2-41 on the yearly trip that began in 1999.

Bryant, who shot 17-of-34, didn't score after his basket with 7:25 to play gave the Lakers an 84-77 lead. Washington's Gilbert Arenas also scored 43 points in a game against San Antonio on Nov. 12.

In Toronto, the Raptors won for the first time in 10 games this season, beating the Miami Heat, 107-94, to leave Atlanta as the NBA's only winless team.

Chris Bosh had a season-high 27 points and 12 rebounds, and Mike James added 25 points for Toronto. The 0-9 start—the worst start in the Raptors' 11-year history—was Toronto's longest losing streak since a 12-game skid Dec. 18, 2002-Jan. 10, 2003.

Dwyane Wade had 33 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Heat.

In New York, Stephon Marbury scored a season-high 27 points to help New York to a 103-92 beating of Portland and give coach Larry Brown his first Knicks victory at Madison Square Garden.

Channing Frye added 20 points and Jamal Crawford had 19 for New York. Sebastian Telfair, Marbury's cousin, had a career-high 27 points for Portland.

In Los Angeles, Elton Brand had 32 points and 10 rebounds to help the Pacific Division-leading Clippers improve to 8-2, the best start in franchise history, via a 113-101 drubbing of the Golden State Warriors.

The Clippers are tied with defending champion San Antonio for the best record in the Western Conference.

In Indianapolis, Ron Artest scored 24 points to lead the Pacers to an 85-74 triumph over the Houston Rockets.

Stephen Jackson added 17 points and Jermaine O'Neal had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

In Denver, Marcus Camby had 21 points and 21 rebounds in 34 minutes in the Nuggets' 17th straight victory at Pepsi Center under coach George Karl and 16th consecutive home win over the Memphis Grizzlies, 99-83.

Fourteen of Camby's rebounds came off the defensive glass.

Carmelo Anthony added 21 points and 10 rebounds in 36 minutes, and Earl Boykins had 18 points for Denver (6-5), which moved over .500 for the first time this season.

In Seattle, Ray Allen scored 21 of his 28 points in the second half to lead the SuperSonics to their third straight win, a tight 106-104 victory over the Sacramento Kings. *AP*

NBA ON SOLAR: The San Antonio Spurs gun for their fourth straight win as they visit the Sacramento Kings today. Solar Sports will air the action at the Arco Arena starting 11 a.m.

Annika collects trophy No. 10

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA—Annika Sorenstam closed another spectacular year with her 10th victory Sunday, holding off a spirited charge from Liselotte Neumann with a 12-foot birdie on the 16th hole to give her the cushion she needed at the ADT Championship.

She finished with two solid pars for a 3-under 69 and a two-stroke victory over Neumann, who three-putted from off the green on the final hole while trying for birdie to force a playoff. Neumann shot 70.

Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines shot a final-day 73 for a 292 total that put her in a four-way tie for 15th spot.

Her $14,800 paycheck lifted her total for the season to $514,279, good—26th in the LPGA money list.

Michele Redman and Kang Soo-yun each had a 68 and tied for second. Both had an outside chance of winning until neither made birdie over the final two holes and Sorenstam failed to make a mistake.

"She's hard to catch," Neumann said. "You just know she won't make too many mistakes, and you know you have to make birdies."

Sorenstam became the first player to successfully defend her title in the American women's tour's version of the US PGA Tour Championship, and now has won the event four times.

She finished at 6-under 282 and earned $215,000, taking her season total to more than $2.5 million. She also captured her sixth Vare Trophy for the lowest scoring average, finishing at 69.33, the fourth best in LPGA history. And it was the second time Sorenstam has won at least 10 times in one LPGA season.

Sorenstam won 50 percent of her LPGA events this year—10 of 20. *AP*

RP boxers glad to be fighting on home soil

From page A19

Negros Occidental, wisely considered to be the hotbed of amateur boxing in the country, is well-represented in the SEA Games by six locals—Joan Tipon, veterans Reynaldo Galido and Juanito Magliquian, young Mark Jason Melliguen, Joegin Ladon and Warlito Parrenas.

All will be competing in an international event for the first time here.

"It's extra special when we fight here. We have the real homecourt advantage," the 30-year-old Galido, who rose to prominence after winning a gold in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad, said.

Negrense boxers have actually accounted for the last three Olympic medals for the Philippines with Leopoldo Serrantes taking the bronze in the 1988 Seoul Games, a feat duplicated by Roel Velasco in Barcelona in 1992, four years before younger brother Mansueto snared the silver that shone like gold in Atlanta.

Leviste books World Cup slot

LEVISTE: Victorious

OLYMPIAN TONI LEVISTE BOOKED a ticket to the World Cup Showjumping Finals with an emphatic victory in the Manila leg of the prestigious equestrian tournament held over the weekend at the Alabang Golf and Country Club.

Atop Globe Platinum Maktub, Leviste scored a follow-up clear round to defeat Hong Kong's Charlotte Morse in a thrilling jump-off.

With the win, Leviste earned the right to represent Southeast Asia in the World Cup next year. She, likewise, served notice of her intent to bag a gold medal in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games (SEA) which the Philippines is hosting.

Of the riders who competed, only Leviste and Morse rode clear rounds in the first round to set the stage for a timed showdown over a shortened course.

Going first in the jump-off, Leviste put tremendous pressure on Morse when she rode a clear round with a time of 54.45 seconds.

Nalbandian fishes rare triumph

TENNIS
MASTERS
CUP
NALBANDIAN: Incredible match AP

SHANGHAI, CHINA—DAVID NALBANDIAN didn't mind flying under the radar at the Masters Cup until he came back from two sets down to upset Roger Federer in the final.

The 23-year-old Argentine didn't qualify automatically for the season-ending event. Ranked 12th, Nalbandian was drafted into the eight-man draw when third-ranked Andy Roddick pulled out with an injured back.

He had to cancel a planned fishing trip to travel to Shanghai, where Roddick was one of five leading players who withdrew either before or right at the start of the tournament.

Nalbandian, who collected $1.4 million for winning and improved his year-end ranking to a career-high No. 6, said the manner of his 6-7 (4), 6-7 (11), 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (3) triumph made it his greatest.

After losing the first two sets, he won 16 of 19 games and led, 4-0, in the last set before Federer, the two-time defending champ, mounted a comeback and was serving for the match at 6-5, 30-0. *AP*

RACING

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Race 1—1. Family Day 2. Money Maker 3. Loaded 4. Latin Music
Race 2—1. Field Star/Once and for All 2. El Love Señora 3. Queen Josephine 4. Smiling Jaeda 5. Silent Operator
Race 3—1. Selectee 2. Blue Face 3. Sham Sham 4. Fancy Dancer
Race 4—1. Hand-Picked 2. Tellmenolies 3. Bull Knight 4. Irish Step 5. Silent Witness
Race 5—1. Magiliw 2. Ocean Dignity 3. Accomplice 4. Record Holder
Race 6—1. Court General 2. Born's Born's 3. Long Hitter 4. Order of Merit 5. Southern Prince
Race 7—1. Feng Shui 2. Cool Turner 3. Fastteller 4. Color of the Wind 5. Reign of Fire
Race 8—1. Amazing Firenze 2. Tribeca 3. Nureyev Heiress 4. Calvin's Magic 5. Virgin Island 6. Terminator

SPORTSWATCH

World hoop tilt safety assured

SECURITY and safety measures are now in place for delegates and participants to the 21st Chinese World Invitational Basketball Tournament who started arriving yesterday for the four-day competition that opens on Nov. 24 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Some 1,800 participants coming from 11 countries and 50 cities all over the world will be billeted in different hotels near the playing venues. Sunny Co, events spokesman and coordinator, said they are closely working and coordinating with authorities to ensure the safety of the delegates so they can enjoy their stay in the Philippines. He said funding for the event came from the Chiang Kai Shek College family through its board of trustees headed by Chan Cuan, the Alumni Association headed by George Tiu and school president Joan Sy Cotio who chipped in their efforts and financial resources to ensure the success of the tournament. Leoncio Chua, president of the Chiang Kai Shek College Evergreen Athletic Association, acknowledged the support extended by other organizations such as the Department of Tourism, Anil Buxani of the Sonia Trading that donated Molten, the official playing balls; Don Emilio Yap of the Manila Bulletin and Manila Hotel.

356 cockers enter Bakbakan semis

FROM a record field of 856 entries, only 356 survived the qualifying rounds of the 2005 National Bakbakan 9-stag derby being staged at the Araneta Coliseum by the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders and main sponsors Gran Matador and B-Meg. The semifinal round continues at noon today. The early pacesetters with six wins each are Tony Panopio of Batangas, Rainier Kau and Mayor Go of Ilocos, Jojie dela Merced of Tarlac, Odie Fausto of Cagayan and Obet Son and Willie Villarica of Bulacan. The remaining qualifiers will battle it out on Nov. 24. Championship rounds are scheduled on Nov. 26 and 28. For inquiries, call 911–2928 and 911–3101.

Provincial bets join SJC derby

FIFTY cockers and breeders from different provinces comprised the early batch of participants who registered for the 4–Cock Daytime Derby of San Juan Coliseum on Dec. 13, 15 and 17. To be hosted by Aba Badiola and SJC management, the derby stakes P1 million plus an owner-type jeep for the fastest win champion. Entry fee is P4,400. Registrants include Ramil Rico, Peping Taba, Cyrus Hao, Alma Pineda, Boy Macario, Bong Vasquez, John Soller, UBBA Group, Ruel Diaz, Francis Antonio, Vince Perea, Johhny Elorde, Dexter Salmingo and Kags Paliza. Reservation of air–conditioned cockhouses is now ongoing. For inquiries, please call 0918 –2620338, 7255665, 7255369 and 7277086.

Iloilo season opener Nov. 25

JARO'S Iloilo Coliseum and Thunderbird Power Feeds welcome the 2005-2006 cock season with a bang as promoter Ed Gonzales and cockpit manager Luis Tinsay stage the Iloilo Season Opener 5-Cock Derby. Bannered by Thunderbird Platinum & Bexan-XP, the event is on Nov. 25 and 27 with a guaranteed cash prize of P500,000. Weight limits are from 1.9–2.4 kg. Contact Iloilo Coliseum at (033) 3207239 or 3207240 for details. Meanwhile, all systems are go for the 5-Stag Derby at the New Davao Matina Gallera on the 28th. It is sponsored by Thunderbird Baby Stag Booster. Also on tap is the Bigtime 5-Cock Derby at the Rhovics Cockpit in Oroquieta City on Nov. 30, hosted by Rudy Ala and backed by Thunderbird Successor.

Bobong's 'Dream Game'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DESPITE THE DE LA SALLE BROUHAHA brought on by the player ineligibility issue that rocked the UAAP a while back, interest in the "D-Day in December at the Dome" hasn't waned one bit. I myself have been bombarded with requests to produce that precious ticket for friends wanting to watch the show. My, I hope I won't disappoint.

Bobong Velez, he of the sturdy resolve and whose integrity is beyond reproach, mans the fort anew to ensure another smashing success in the never-ending storied rivalry between Ateneo and De La Salle.

"There is always a huge motivation for both schools to win whenever they meet," said Bobong. "Ateneo lost to La Salle thrice in the UAAP this season and is looking for payback. On the other hand, La Salle would like to erase any doubt of its mastery over its rival school. We expect a sea of green and blue to flood the Araneta Coliseum on D-Day. When these two teams play against each other, 'all bets are off.'"

The event on Dec. 8 at the Araneta Coliseum features two games, courtesy of Ateneo High '81, La Salle High '81, the Philippine Basketball Association and VDV Sports.

Bobong, the VDV chair who is an alumnus both of La Salle and Ateneo, is using the event as his comeback springboard to sports promotions. As Dream Games Project Director, Bobong relives once more the super-hit, first-ever La Salle-Ateneo Dream Game in 1975. Four years later, Bobong organized another Ateneo-La Salle extravanga, before proceeding—with much success—to produce the PBA on TV for over 18 years, from 1982 to 2000.

"It is time once more to recreate the Dream Game 30 years after its first inception," said Bobong, who began the work early this year.

A new and exciting twist is added this year in that the main game of the twinbill features PBA stars from both schools teaming up with present-day varsity players.

Ateneo's pros are Rich Alvarez, Paolo Bugia, Larry Fonacier, Wesley Gonzales, Olsen Racela, Rico Villanueva, Vince Hizon and Jec Chia while present-day collegiate stars are L.A. Tenorio, J.C. Intal, Japeth Aguilar and Doug Kramer. Ateneo coach is Chot Reyes.

La Salle's pros are Jun Limpot, Mark Telan, Don Allado, Mike Cortez, Mac Cuan, Ren-Ren Ritualo, Mark Cardona and Willie Wilson while the current varsity stars are Joseph Yeo, Rico Maierhofer, Jun-Jun Cabatu and Ryan Arana. La Salle coach is Yeng Guiao.

Both sides are serious in winning and, as proof, coach Reyes even scheduled a pra ctice for his boys on All Saints' Day.

The preliminary game is a Legends showdown. Ateneo will be coached by former Olympian Felix Flores and La Salle by Virgil Villavicencio. The teams will be made up of seven players from the '60s, seven from the '70s and seven from the '80s.

Among the Ateneo Legends are Chito Afable, Joy Carpio, Tito Panlilio, Ogie Narvasa, Nonoy Chuatico, Eric Reyes, Danny Francisco and Jojo Lastimosa. The La Salle Legends include Lim Eng Beng, Alex Marquez, Aldo Perez, Gabby Velasco, Franz and Dindo Pumaren, Dwight Lago and Tonichi Yturri.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala, who attended La Salle Greenhills High School and Ateneo for his undergraduate and law studies, is fully supporting the much talked-about doubleheader.

Bobong said tickets can still be had at VDV Sports, tels. 817- 4554 and 845 - 3125.

You want unsullied fun, this is it.

Espiritu, Solis top PBA championships

ABBEY ESPIRITU OF ALABANG and Bonnie Solis of Makati both hurdled rivals from the Sta. Lucia-East to capture the Ladies Masters and Graded Masters titles, respectively, in the 5th Pasig Bowling Association (PBA) Tenpin Bowling Championships on Sunday at the Green Valley Country Club lanes in Pasig City.

Espiritu, of ATBA, rolled 2388 to beat SLETBA-Bowlmart's Lara Posadas 2363 for the ladies crown.

TBAM/Prima's Solis, on the other hand, carded 3213 to pocket the other trophy against Boy Cables of SLETBA-TMC who scored 3129.

Jho Balanay of ATBA was third in the Ladies Masters with 2313 followed by Nelia Santos of host PBA (2294), Lynn Ran of TCBA (2277), MBA's Rory Villena (2238), PBA's Mila Robles (2224), Alice Cabazor of AMBA (2216), PBA's Susan San Diego (2210) and Kris Valenzona of AMBA (2200).

In the Graded Masters final, checking in third is Lito Santarinala of SLETBA-Fil Estate (3090) followed by Nico Valderrama of TBAM/Prima (3084), Ted Robles of PBA (3014), Tobs Renacia of SLETBA (2988), Sonny Sugatan of TBAM (2981), PBA's Fr. Benny Tuazon (2963) and Mike Robles (2958) and Leo Joson of LCTBA (2909).

The event was sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Union Bank, Marvin's Bar, Dr. Elmer Punzalan, Hungry Hippo and Steve Robles of STEM.

SPORTS

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La Salle gains semis

TITLE-FAVORITE LA SALLE overwhelmed Adamson, 2-0, yesterday to arrange a semifinal showdown with Far Eastern University in the centerpiece college division of the JVC Inter-scholastic Badminton Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati yesterday.

LADY Tams Julie Ann Hilados (back) and Ma. Theresa Sebastian in action against UP. The FEU pair lost the match. RYAN LIM

Therine Chan, the other half of La Salle's talented sisters, blasted Isabelle Villaran, 11-1, 11-1, while twins Rachel and Raquel Guerrero disposed of Emily Gali and Krystel Tan in the doubles, 15-5, 15-1, to clinch the tie for the Taft Avenue-based defending champions.

FEU leaned on Jovalyn Cabañero's heroics to turn back a tough UP-Diliman side and arrange the semis duel with La Salle today in this event which stakes P50,000 for the champion team.

Cabañero downed Jertie Kagalingan, 11-3, 11-7, in the deciding singles match. Chona Rivera won the first singles match for FEU, dominating Ron Kagalingan in the third set en route to a 11-4, 5-11, 11-1 decision.

The UP pair of Liza Sormillo and Sheryl Caraig forced the decider by outlasting Julie Ann Hilador and Ma. Therese Sebastian, 15-10, 13-15, 15-13.

JVC (Phils.) Inc. president and CEO Hideyuki Takato graced the staging of the quarterfinal round along with Kazue Salud, general manager of JVC (Phils) Inc., Kim Ku, head of the guest Korean badminton team, retired Gen. Edgar Aglipay, vice president of Phil. Badminton Association, and lawyer Faustino Salud, chair of JVC (Phils.) Inc.

UST, led by Rose Ann dela Cruz, also beat UE, 2-0, to advance to the semifinals against Iloilo, which upended Ateneo, 2-1.

The men's quarterfinal matches are still being played at presstime.

Meanwhile, defending champion Miriam College heads the eight teams battling it out for the top P50,000 purse in the cheer-dance competition, which spices up the final day of competitions tomorrow.

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Tuesday, November 22, 2005

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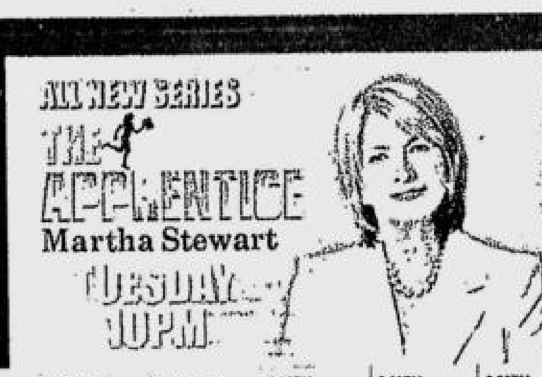
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ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Trickshot Master				Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	Kalibre 45				Big News	The Apprentice		ALI	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Motor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Bora			Insider
AXN		Lost The Journey Special		Lost		Sports Disaster V		Beastmaster		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		The Amazing Race Family Edition		House		Las Vegas	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	Batta B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Cinema One		14 Going Steady				Bulaklak Ng Maynila				Hari Ng Selda				John & Marsha '86 TNT Sa America				Kahit Isang Saglit	
Cinemax				The Scoundrel's Wife			Sweet Poison (5:45 PM)				Missing In Action (7:20 PM)			Locusts			Secretary		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Altered Statesmen		Why Intelligence Fails		Wild Science		Speed Week		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Deadliest Catch		Thank God They Are Gone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Skating Campbell's Int'l. Figure			Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	LPGA Golf ADT C'ship				Sportscenter Asia	NFL Football - Vikings Vs Packers						Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Catholic Social Teaching	Angelus (3:15 PM)	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Angels Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Gospel Of John	EWTN Gallery	Lord, Have Mercy	The Journey Home Encore		Council Of Faith	Good Or Evil- Who Decides?	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Rome Reports	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romansa	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Wire In The Blood		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Wire In The Blood		Valentin			Agency II (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
HBO				The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King							Growing Pains: Return Of The Steevers			Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade				Gattaca (11:05PM)	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Family Guy	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Ren & Stimpy Adult Party Cartoon	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Road & Track	Back To Basics
MTV Philippines	MTV Screen	Spring Break	Diyes		Punk'D	Pop Inc		2005 Europe Video Music Awards Main Show					Get Spotted	TRL		Advance Warning	Pimp My Ride	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops		MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		7/7 Attack On London			The Airshow Miracle	Is It Real?		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Seconds From Disaster		Inside 911	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blue's Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Paolo Santos Acoustics				Coolam Kulam				Balweg				Ang Boyfriend Kong Gamol				Hinukay Ko Na Ang Libingan Mo
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Real Gilligan's Island		The Cut		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Trail		
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Buhay Pinoy	
Solar Sports		Bacchus Bowling		FIVB World Champ Cup Men's Event USA vs Bra				Phil 9-Ball Open Day 1				Sports Desk		NBA Game Spurs @ Kings					NBA Jam
Sports Plus				NFL 2005, Indianapolis @ Cincinnati						Ford 400 Highlights		Ultimate Fighting Championship				Party Poker.Com World Open 2005			
Star Movies				Imagining Argentina			Swimming Upstream				Out Of Reach			Erin Brockovich				Nature Unleashed: Tornado	
Star World	Becker/Miss World Asia Pacific Vote For Me, Miss World Caribbean Vote For Me	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed		Desperate Housewives		Tru Calling		Friends	Ed
Studio 23		Astroboy						Get Backers	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Andromeda		Smallville (8:20 PM)	Point Pleasant (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

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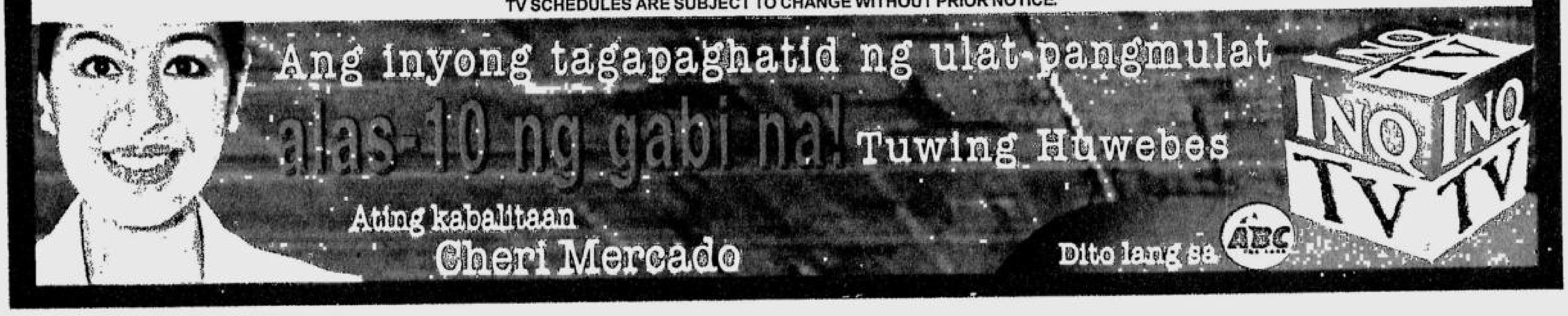
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7 SM cinemas go digital

Independent filmmakers welcome move of leading moviehouse chain

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING cinemaplex chain recently purchased seven digital projectors.

Ric Camaligan, first vice president of SM Leisure Inc., which operates SM Cinemas, told INQUIRER Entertainment that the Sharp digital projectors, imported from the United States, were installed in six SM-owned and operated malls.

"There's one each in Podium, North Edsa, Manila, Centerpoint and Southmall, and two in Megamall," Camaligan said.

He explained that SM acquired the projectors in response to local independent filmmakers' adoption of digital technology. Digital movies require less capital. At least two film festivals—Cinemalaya and Cinemanila—focus on the technology by way of encouraging new talents.

Several digital productions have won in international competitions, and three so far have been rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board and thus granted a 100-percent tax rebate.

"Digital movies are obviously the current trend," Camaligan noted. "SM welcomes this development in support of independent producers."

Delayed

He said installation of the digital projectors was delayed for a while. "We didn't want to place them in the middle of the theaters," he explained. "That would ruin the viewing experience. But we realized that if we installed the digital projectors at the back or in the projection rooms, we would need long trough lenses."

After the short delay, Camaligan recounted, they finally found the special lenses. The projectors were first used for the showing of the entries in the digital competition of the Cinemanila International Film Festival last October.

"We used them for the screenings in SM Manila and San Lazaro," he said.

Pioneer

Shortly before SM Cinemas banned R-18 films last year, Camaligan pointed out, it was the first to show an independent digital movie directed by a Filipino—Cris Pablo's "Duda."

"But that time, the filmmaker brought his own projector [an EPSON EMP8300] to the theater," Camaligan recalled. "So I told him when we met again at the Cinemalaya [last July] that SM was about to open its own digital moviehouses."

Said Coreen Jimenez, co-director of the Cinemalaya Best Screenplay and Best Sound winner, "Big Time": "SM is very supportive." Most independent filmmakers don't have the budget to blow up their movies for film projectors. SM's move, Jimenez said, was a "big boost."

"Big Time" begins its theatrical run on Jan. 11, 2006.

Challenge

"We are still in the exploratory stage," Camaligan admitted. "Hopefully there'll be more digital films produced in the next few months."

As for the mall's policy on R-18 movies—two Cinemanila entries ("Ilusyon" and "Matthew, Mark, Luke & John") were thus classified—Camaligan stressed that SM was flexible.

He explained: "As of now, R-18 films are not giving us [sufficient] revenue. If things turn around, as businessmen, we will adapt. That's our challenge to filmmakers: Produce quality R-18 movies that will do well at the box office."

Daisy Reyes reinvents herself

IT SEEMS BEAUTY QUEEN AND actress Daisy Reyes is determined to be a successful recording artist. She recently released her second album, "Ode to the Irony of Love," a collection of pop, Latin and funk music. Of the 10 tracks, five are original compositions. Of three remakes, Daisy is especially proud of "Tao," composed by Gary Parez and popularized by Sampaguita. The rock star was just as proud. "I don't allow just any artist who asks me to do remakes of my songs," Sampaguita said, "but I was impressed with Daisy's demo tape, and she did a very good job, indeed!" Produced by Montage Music, the CD is exclusively distributed by Galaxy Records.

NORA Aunor

VILMA Santos

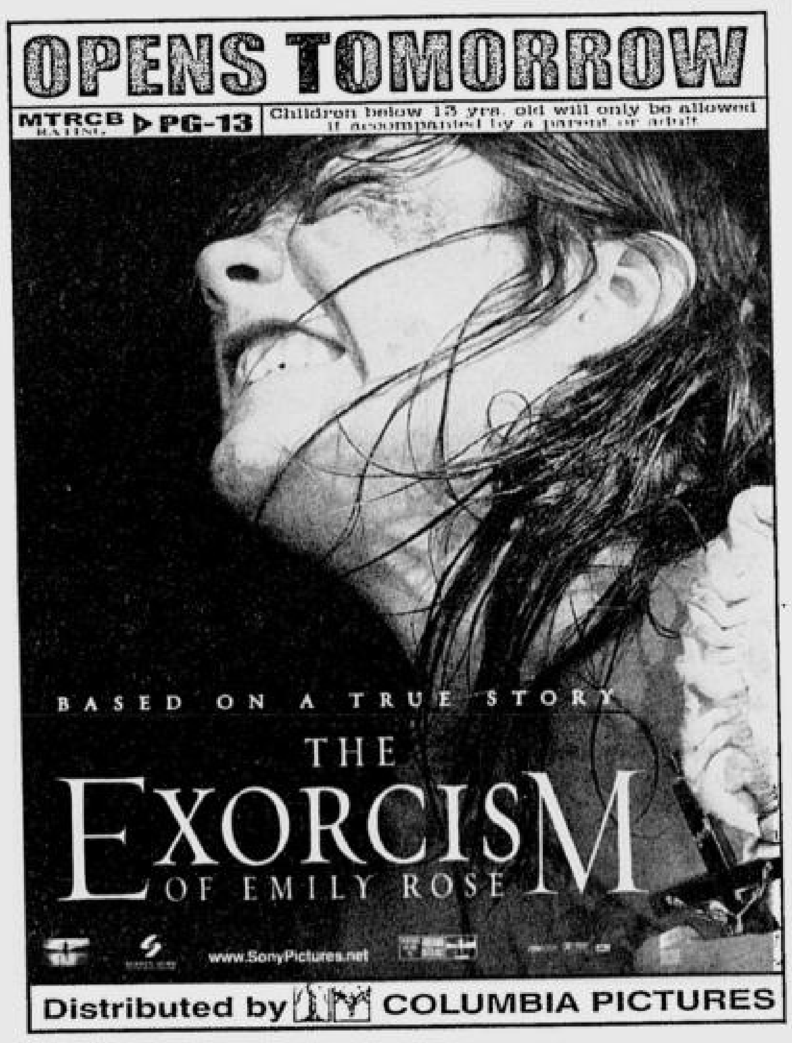
Feminist film fest awardees

NORA AUNOR AND VILMA SANTOS WILL BE honored for Oustanding Achievement in Film Acting during The Feminist Centennial Filmfest Awards tomorrow.

The awarding ceremonies at the Shang Cineplex, Shangri-La Plaza, opens the festival, which marks the celebration of 100 years of feminist movement in the Philippines.

"F Festival," which runs until Nov. 29, is organized by the Communication Foundation for Asia, with the Feminist Centennial Network led by former Sen. Leticia R. Shahani.

Other awardees are Marilou Diaz-Abaya, for Film Direction, Lualhati Bautista for Screenplay Writing, and Charo Santos-Concio and Lily Monteverde for Film Production.



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2 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP
4 (DOLBY) FLIGHTPLAN PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLE OF FIRE GP

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
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2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 FLIGHT PLAN

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 DOMINO
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 MASAHISTA

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433994
1 CRY WOLF
2 SHANGHAI LILY
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) WAR EAGLE
2

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 LEGEND OF ZORRO
10 FOUR BROTHERS

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
3 (DOLBY) FOUR BROTHERS
4 (DOLBY) WAITING

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 MASAHISTA

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 SPEED RUN
3 SORUM
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MASAHISTA
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHT PLAN

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 FLIGHT PLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) CLOSED
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) CLOSED
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 ISPIRITISTA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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tel 687.6963 or 72
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2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLE OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLE OF FIRE
4 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

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2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 WAITING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(BIÑAN) tel. (049) 4111146
1 WAITING
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ISPIRITISTA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 DARK WATER
3 (DOLBY) THE TRANSPORTER-2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 SAPLOT
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 (DTS) BELPHEGOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3 (DTS) WAITING
4 FLIGHT PLAN
5 MASAHISTA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WAITING
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 PARAISONG GUBAT
4 FLIGHT PLAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 DOMINO
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAY MAY BUMAYO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

How to dump a band and go your own way

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO **Kitchie Nadal**'s former bandmates **Jeff, Aaron** and **Marco**? According to an insider, the boys were sacked. They did not leave on their own volition. After their successful Canada concert, the boys' services were terminated just like that. Jeff composed "Bulong" and arranged most of the songs in Kitchie's album. Last September, Kitchie told them that they were going to disband so she could concentrate on her studies. But a few months later, Kitchie resurfaced with a new band singing the jingle of Mcdo in a TV ad.

Hot potatoes

WHAT gives? Poor Jeff, Aaron and Marco! They were with Kitchie when she was just starting out. Now that she's hot property, she has dropped them like hot potatoes! Maybe she's just living up to the title of her hit song, "Wag na Wag Mong Sasabihin." She didn't tell her former bandmates about her plan to go on without them.

Reader's take

HERE's an e-mail I got from Marvel2005_901@hotmail.com pertaining to the Nadal (*nadali ang* bandmates?) issue:

Hi Dolly!

Your column titled "Musikero blues" sounded very much like a replay of what happened to another local band—the Rock Princess' band. Should I mention her name, or "*huwag ko na lang sabihin*"? After being touted as her permanent band (check out her website), the band members were asked to leave. [This] was right after their album achieved double platinum status.

The reason *daw*: the princess [should] concentrate on her studies. How can anyone believe that, when she does gigs left and right (check out the website again)!

As one of her own fans puts it, "So sad, so sad, so sad!" Is this the aftermath of success—once you reach the top, there's no more looking back for people who helped you up the steps?

Well, maybe that's why her music sounds different now—for better or worse, you be the judge. This comes from a very reliable source and is definitely not hearsay. I know you're in the band scene. Ask your *musikero* friends.

Thanks,
Marvs

Weight gain

JENNYLYN Mercado gained 10 pounds within two months of her split-up with **Mark Herras**. Is this any indication that their tumultuous romance was really detrimental to her health (mentally and otherwise)?

Got a text from my "Tokyo Love" Direk **Maryo J de los Reyes** all the way from India: "I'm in Hyderabad. Magnifico is showing in the Panorama Section of the 14th Golden Elephant Children's International Filmfest. I've been invited to intro the film."

I've been to India myself. In Indian art, emphasis is less on the physical form and more on truth and beauty that are expressive of an inner seeking and finding. Maryo J's "Magnifico" embodies all that. I bet the film about an extraordinary boy will cause quite a stir in the land of the eternal child-deity, Krishna.

Guess list

GUESS who this couple is! Their son is a popular young actor. The mother tags along with the young star to all his shootings. Lately, the father resigned from his work. Nope it's not because he wants to take turns with the mom to watch over their gifted child. The reason is he heard that his wife has a lover so he's now guarding her like a hawk! To think that their son is still a minor, and their brewing marital scandal is Rated R material. Clue: The young star's claim to fame is a TV ad/

Comedienne banned

GUESS who this comedienne is! She has a top-rating show but is banned from appearing in all the shows of an in-demand director. They had a big fight about the comic's un-professionalism, so the director refuses to work with her ever again. He couldn't care less even it's a good project or he'll be paid big bucks for it. This is no laughing matter for the comedienne. How long can she grin and bear it? Clue: The comedienne had humble beginnings.

Belo ohhhh!!!

WHEN people ask why I don't look 41, I proudly say it's the Belo magic. And guess who's the latest endorser of the Belo Medical group? My childhood idol, Christopher de Leon. He has joined fellow celebrities **Kris Aquino, Pops Fernandez, Regine Velasquez, Albert Martinez, Piolo Pascual** and **Troy Montero**, to name a few.

The multi-awarded actor rarely endorses products, so Dr. **Vicki Belo** beams with pride now that he's given his support to her enterprise. "It's exciting, and very flattering, to have an actor of such caliber as a patron," she says.

Congratulations

HAPPY 25th Foundation Day to AMA Computer College. I am delighted to be the keynote speaker in their founding anniversary rites today. Special thanks to **Mayet Sicat** and **Jojo Alvarez** for the invitation. It will be such a joy to exchange ideas with the brilliant young minds of AMA.

Thanks

THANKS to sultry singer **Jereza** and the gracious staff (Capt **Alex, Roselyn, Crizel, Lovely, Clyde, Gemmalyn, Ryan, Andrew, Erbelle** and **Don**) of Fisherman's Deck at Island Cove Cavite for such an enchanting evening! I wish I could have frozen time when I was there with my dear friend **Billy Legazpi**.

(Email wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

MISS GOLDEN GLOBE

Dakota Johnson, daughter of Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson, was named Miss Golden Globe for the awards set on Jan. 16, 2006. She is the first daughter of a former Miss Golden Globe to be selected and also the first honoree to have two Golden Globe-winning parents. The honor traditionally goes to the daughter of a big celebrity. The Golden Globes are given annually by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. AP

Getting stand-up

VIEWF

Nestor U. Torr

STAND-UP COMEDY IS A BIG deal in the United States, but it's having a tough time getting started in the Philippines. Factors impeding its growth here include:

- Pinoy comedy being of the slapstick and "gimmick" sort, rather than the verbal humor, satirical social observation and "painful" personal confession that characterize stand-up.
- Filipino comedians generally don't write their material, while stand-up comics often originate their own jokes and stories.
- Stand-up is fearless and cutting, and this doesn't sit well with Asians in general, and Filipinos in particular, because we're *balat-sibuyas* and take insults, even obviously comedic ones, much too personally for comfort—and for comedians' safety.

Due to these and other inhibiting factors, good Pinoy stand-up comics aren't easy to come by.
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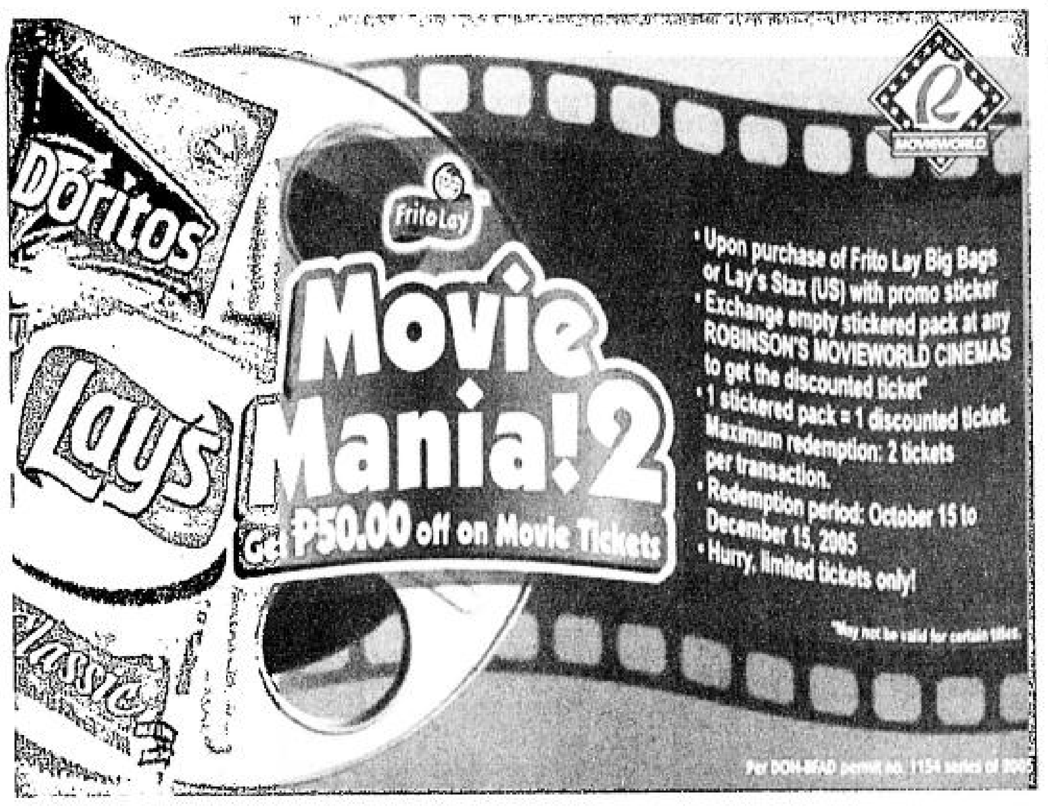

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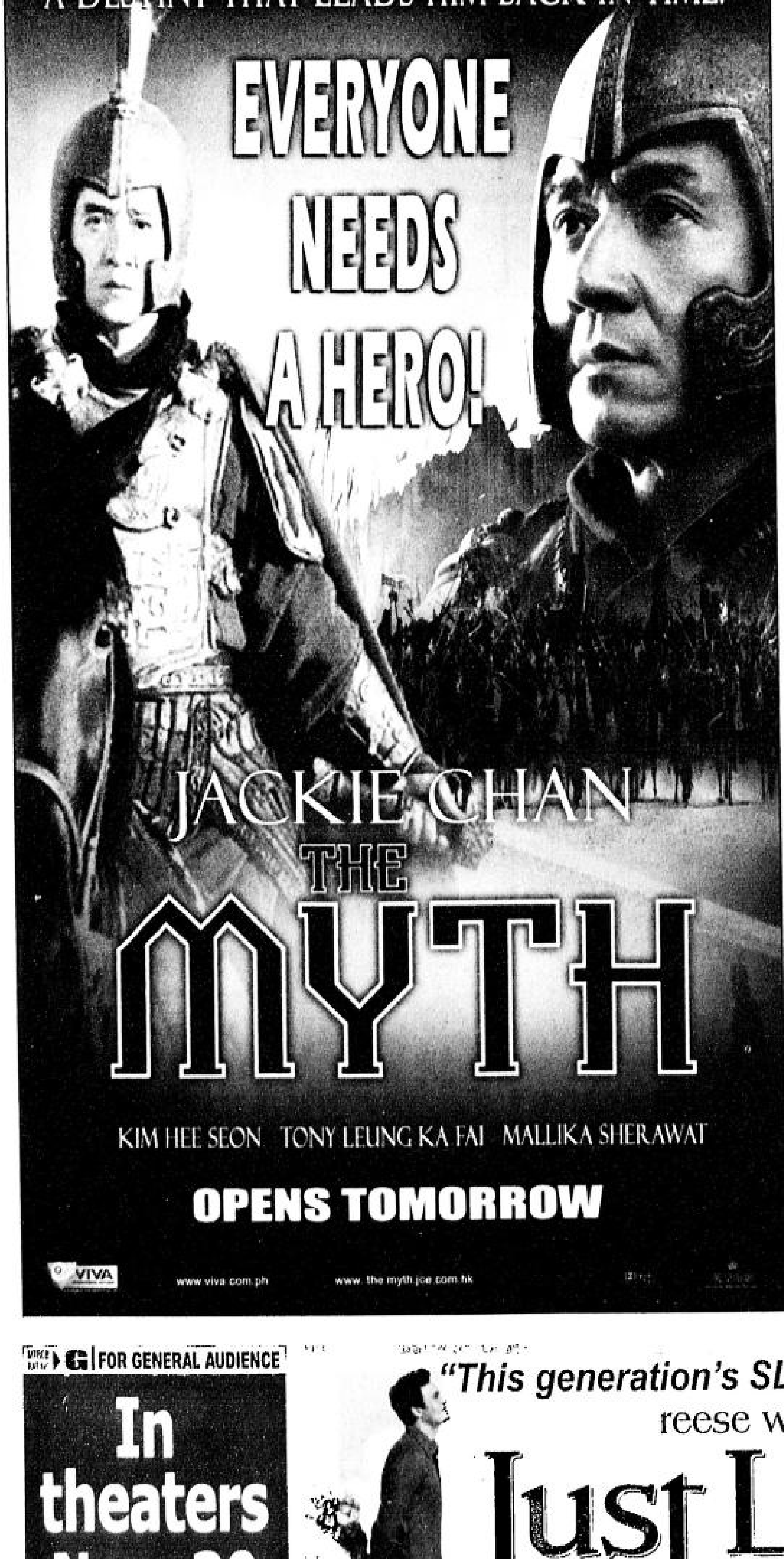

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DID YOU KNOW...

"MASAHISTA," co-produced by Gee Entertainment and Centerstage, closes the Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival on Nov. 27. It was reportedly a "surprise hit" in Cebu and at the Robinsons Place in Ermita.

comedy going in RP

NDER

Of course, you have
to the rule, like Fil-
ion Rex Navarrete,
as his own TV show.
grown stand-up tal-
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fag-hag sing-along
specialize in the hu-
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prov), while genuine
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watch "Last Comic
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mean. Most of the
o make it as finalists
in the big-time humor tilt generate loads of laughs because their spiels and narratives are carefully constructed, written and edited to keep their audience in stitches.

How can more Filipino comedians graduate to the more demanding and even cerebral stand-up mode? For starters, they could observe the "imported" likes of Rex Navarrete at work on TV.

Failing that, they could catch two more Fil-Am talents, **Tim Tayag** and **Allan Manalo**, in their special show, "Holy Stand Up!), on Dec. 2 and 3 at Music Museum.

Tayag went to the States in 1997, and began performing stand-up in a small cafe in San Francisco. When he hit his stride, he worked in more prominent comedy clubs like Punch Line and Cobb's, where **Robin Williams** and **Drew Carrey** also got their start.

For his part, Manalo has been a stand-up comedian for 15 years. In the States, he's worked with **Rob Schneider** and **Jamie Foxx**.

More than a year ago, he came back to Manila and performed in clubs and on TV, and appeared in a number of commercials.

Together, Tim and Al aim to do "pure" stand-up comedy here. They say that they'll come up with "witty set-ups and scenarios, punchlines and one-liners, inspired by shrewd spot numbers and mascara-laden drag queen performances which the local market has been more accustomed to."

Their show "adheres to the sacred principle of stand-up: The spoken word is king, and the comedy materials are decrees that rule the land." Our thoughts, exactly.

Animax in December

AT 6 p.m. on Dec. 4, Animax premieres "The Adventures of Tweeny Witches," a wonderful blend of fantasy and adventure in which 11-year-old Ellis embarks on a journey into the world of witches and wizards. Ellis' mischievous and yet innocent character has captivated many anime fans around the world.

Subsequent weekday premiere is at 4 p.m. on Monday. Repeat telecasts are at 7 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday.

At 7 p.m. on Dec. 26 and 27, Episodes 1-4 of "Detective Conan" will be shown in a sneak preview.

Its protagonist is a famous detective who is captured by criminals who make him swallow a pill that shrinks his body to that of an 8-year-old boy. To escape from the evil men's clutches, he changes his name to Conan Edogawa, and continues to solve mysteries.

`Contender' rematch on AXN

AT 8 p.m. on Nov. 21, AXN telecasts "The Contender Best of Fight Scenes Special," consisting of the finest pugilistic encounters in the hit boxing reality show.

And, at 9 p.m. on Nov. 24, AXN screens "The Contender Rematch: Mora vs Manfredo.

Sergio Mora is back to defend his Contender title from **Peter Manfredo Jr.**, whom he defeated during the finale of the first season of "The Contender."

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CINEMA 4 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:45, 10:10
CINEMA 5 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP 11:20, 2:45, 6:10, 9:40
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③ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE MTRCB. GP 12:15, 3:30, 6 45, 10:00
④ FLIGHTPLAN MTRCB PG-13 1.20, 3:30,.5.40, 7:50,10:00
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2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00 GP
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15 GP
4 FLIGHT PLAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13

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HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:10,3:20,6:30,9:40	FLIGHT PLAN PG13 12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20,9:30	HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:50,4:00,7:10,10:20

Tickets for "HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE" now available

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P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
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2:00 / 2:20 / 2:35 / 3:10 / 3:40
4:20 / 5:10 / 5:20 / 5:45 / 6:20
6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 8:55 / 9:30 / 9:40
FLIGHT PLAN
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 1:20 / 4:30 / 7:40
❷ THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
❸ FLIGHT PLAN 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
❹ WAITING 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
❺ ISPIRITISTA 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
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Nov 25 - Dec 24

movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

Manila JUST LIKE HEAVEN Nov. 25 • Cinema 1
Megamall ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Nov. 28 • Cinema 4
Megamall ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Nov. 29 • Cinema 2
Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 1 • Cinema 2
Megamall THE FOG Dec. 5 • Cinema 1

GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:00FS/12:20MF/03:30/06:40 09:20LFS/09:50LMF/12:30END
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 02:10FS/02:40MF/05:50 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END
MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 01:10FS/01:35MF/04:40 07:20LFS/07:45LMF/10:20END
2 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:05FS/12:25MF/03:30/06:35 09:15LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END
3 FLIGHTPLAN 11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36 09:16LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 LORD OF WAR
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 FOUR BROTHERS
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 ISPIRITISTA
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 DOOM
SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 MY SASSY GIRL
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 WAITING
9 DEUCE BIGALOW
10 DOOM
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 WAITING
2 CRY WOLF
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 DOOM
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 CRY WOLF
8 DOOM
9 FOUR BROTHERS
10 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY MANILA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 FOUR BROTHERS
12 FLIGHTPLAN
CINEMA CENTER LAS PIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 FLIGHTPLAN
6 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BACOOR
1 CRY WOLF
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 DOOM
SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 FLIGHTPLAN
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 DOOM

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 DOOM
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY ILOILO
1 DOOM
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 WAITING
SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 DOOM
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 4 • THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

2 HARRY POTTER 4
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

3 HARRY POTTER 4
11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30

4 HARRY POTTER 4
1:00 4:10 7:20 10:30

5 HARRY POTTER 4
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

6 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 ILUSYON
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

9 CRY_WOLF
12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40

10 FOUR BROTHERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 HARRY POTTER 4
11:00 2:20 5:40 9:00

2 DOMINO
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 CRY_WOLF
10:30 12:20 2:10 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 FLIGHTPLAN
10:30 12:20 2:10 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 HARRY POTTER 4
12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

7 HARRY POTTER 4
12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:30 4:00 6:00 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER 4
12:45 3:55 7:05

3 HARRY POTTER 4
3:55 7:05

4 FLIGHTPLAN
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 CRY_WOLF
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 HARRY POTTER 4
3:20 6:30

7 HARRY POTTER 4
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

8 FOUR BROTHERS
2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

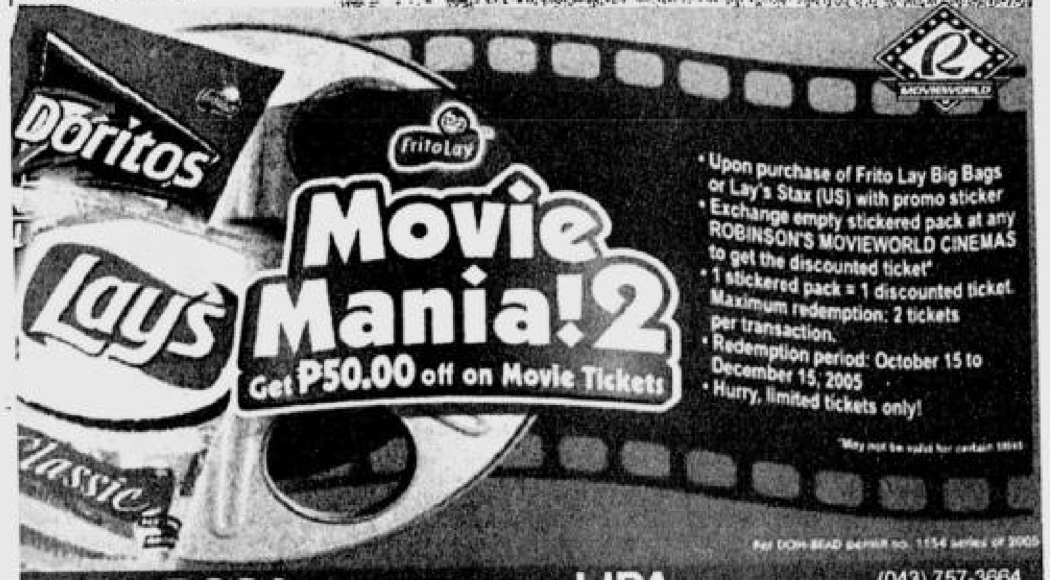
1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 ILUSYON
4 HARRY POTTER 4
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 FLIGHTPLAN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2



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- 1 stickered pack = 1 discounted ticket. Maximum redemption: 2 tickets per transaction.
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*May not be valid for certain titles

Per DOH-BFAD permit no. 1154 series of 2005

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 WAITING
4 FLIGHTPLAN

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 WAITING

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 ILUSYON
3 HARRY POTTER 4
4 FLIGHTPLAN

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 WAITING
4 FLIGHTPLAN

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 ILUSYON
4 FLIGHTPLAN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 WAITING
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 HARRY POTTER 4
6 HARRY POTTER 4

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 HARRY POTTER 4
4 DOOM
5 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
6 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 HARRY POTTER 4
2 WAITING
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 HARRY POTTER 4
5 MASAHISTA

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 FLIGHTPLAN	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO	5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	7 FLIGHTPLAN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 FLIGHTPLAN 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 3:15		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 3:45, 7:00, 10:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:05, 4:20, 10:50 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:40, 4:55, 8:10, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 4:20, 7:35, 10:50 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO	5 FLIGHTPLAN	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 FLIGHTPLAN

Harry Potter
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② HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
③ LEGEND OF ZORRO
④ FLIGHTPLAN
⑤ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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Treasury bill rates continue to slide

91-day yield eases to 5.221%

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES dropped across all maturities for the third straight weekly auction yesterday as banks scrambled for government securities following the release of a better-than-expected budget deficit for October.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the decline in the government's short-term interest rates was due to the improving fiscal climate.

The bellwether 91-day treasury bill rate, used as a benchmark by banks in pricing loans, slid to only 5.221 percent, or 26.9 basis points lower than last week's 5.49 percent. Bids for the three-month government securities amounted to P5.1 billion, much higher than the government's debt offering of only P1 billion.

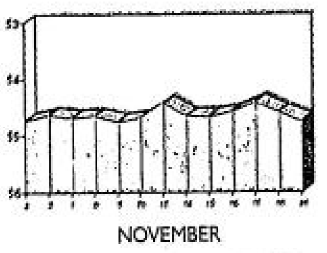
The 182-day bills fetched a rate of 7.53 percent, or 18.1 basis points lower than the previous week's. Tenders reached P13.46 billion, or almost nine times higher than the government's offering of P1.5 billion.

The rate for the 364-day bills declined to 8.594 percent, or 22.4 points lower than the week-ago rate. Tenders reached P10.74 billion, more than five times higher than the P2 billion on offer. (One percentage point is

TREASURY / B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 21, 2005

¥ 119.28 = $1

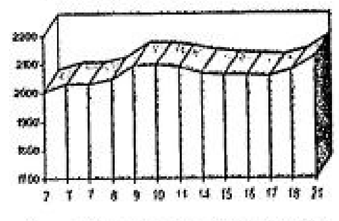
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 21, 2005

GOLD: $488.30-488.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 21, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares jump to 8-mo high

SHARES HIT AN EIGHT MONTH-high yesterday, lifted by a stream of upbeat third-quarter earnings results and a rosier fiscal outlook for the government.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 46.58 points, or 2.2 percent, to 2,126.56, its best finish since March 11, when it ended at 2,137.39. On Fri-

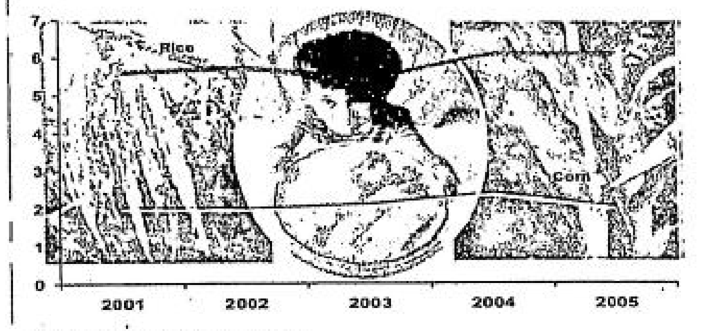
SHARES/ B4

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Rice and corn production

(1st semester 2001 to 2005, in million metric tons)



Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

PALAY and corn production from January to July dipped slightly this year from a five-year high in 2004. Palay production went down by .09 percent to only 6.033 million MT in 2005. Similarly, corn production decreased by 16 percent to 1.973 million MT. The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics had forecast that 2005's July-September yield would post year-on-year increases: by 1.6 percent to 2.915 million MT of palay, and by 13.4 percent to 2.2 million MT of corn.

Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research

WHAT'S INSIDE

BREAKTIME
Forest for the tee /B2
Razon firm seeks NTC nod for nationwide franchise /B2
Credit Lyonnais unit turns bullish on RP /B4
NSC creditors to lift default declaration /B8

GERMAN BANK WINS BIDDING

Metrobank sells ₱6.8B worth of NPLs

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST Co., the country's biggest bank, has sold P6.8 billion worth of bad loans to German lender Hypo-und Vereins Bank AG.

This was the second auction of soured assets held by Metrobank this year, bringing to almost P9.8 billion the non-performing loans unloaded by the bank for 2005.

"We are very pleased with the deal as it goes well with our objective of reducing our NPL portfolio and increasing the bank's profitability," said Metrobank president Antonio Abacan Jr.

"The bank has adopted a deliberate and programmed strategy in disposing of its NPLs. This P6.8 billion, following closely on the heels of its initial deals of almost P3 billion, highlights and underscores the effectiveness and validity of the program the bank has embarked on," he explained.

As of end-September, Metrobank reported that its NPLs stood at P30.45 billion, or 11.13 percent of its total loan portfolio.

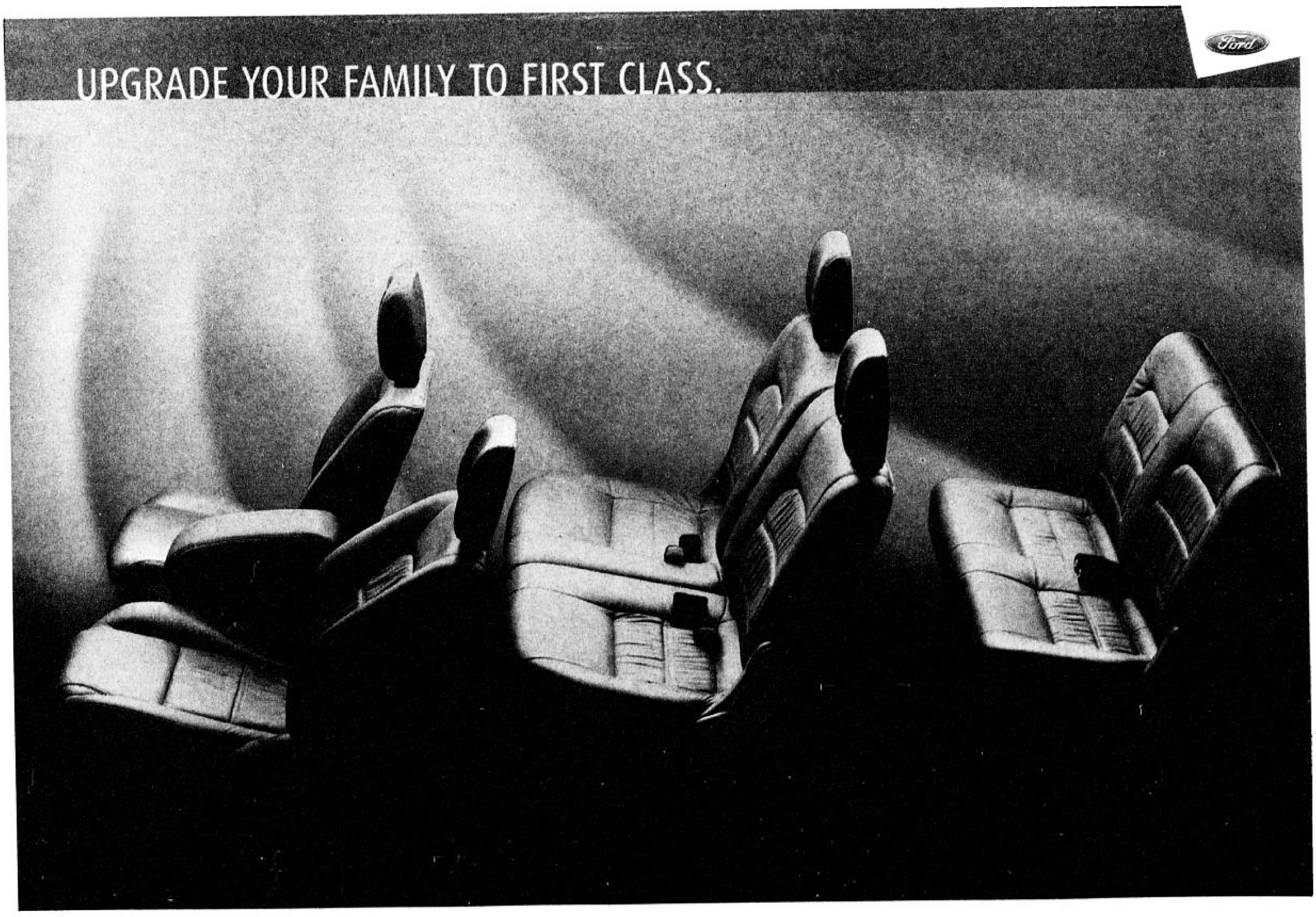
The bulk sale following a bidding held on Nov. 17 trimmed the bank's NPL level to P23.65 billion.

The bidding attracted more than foreign financial institutions. The winning bidder was the Singapore unit of HVB, the second biggest bank in Germany and one of the 10 largest in Central and Eastern Europe. HVB, which specializes in retail and mid-cap customer businesses, has 2,000 branches within and outside of Germany and employs more than 60,000.

With these initial successes, Metrobank looks forward to continuously trimming down its NPLs next year to low, single-digit levels, Abacan said.

The bank plans to replicate these positive results in NPL disposition with these foreign institutions in its foreclosed assets disposition. Abacan said the bank would not only continue to aggressively pursue its traditional asset disposition outlets of direct retail sales, wholesale selling through auctions and joint venture agreements,

METROBANK / B4



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PCGG seeks new nominees for UCPB, CIIF boards

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE BOARDS OF COCONUT-LEVY funded companies United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) and the Coconut Industry Investment Fund Group (CIIF) are up for revamp as the Presidential Commission on Good Government begins to seek new nominees to replace some of the current directors.

Members of the present boards of UCPB and CIIF Group were nominated by the late PCGG chair Haydee Yorac. They may soon have to give way to the nominees of current PCGG chair Camilo Sabio.

"The PCGG is seeking new nominees for the allowed government seats and, though it has yet to be formally declared, there is an impending revamp and we may be the first to go," said Jose Ma. Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc. and a board director of UCPB.

Other board directors that may be replaced include Pambansang Kilusan ng Mga Magsasaka chair Vic Fabe and Philippine Peasant Institute executive director Romeo Royondonan—all staunch advocates for the return of the estimated P154-billion coco levy assets to the farmers.

Efren Villasenor, president of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahan ng mga Magsasaka at Magbubukid sa Niyugan (PKSMNN), also confirmed that the PCGG had asked their group to submit new nominees to the UCPB and CIIF boards.

"We have been asked to submit names and, personally, I was asked to be a board director, but I have turn it down," Villasenor told the INQUIRER.

Villasenor's group has been closely linked with the group of Archbishop Fernando R. Capalla, which recently held a regional consultation with coconut farmers pushing for an amicable settlement and dismissal of all coco levy-related cases pending with the Sandiganbayan and Supreme Court.

In December 2001, the Supreme Court issued a decision declaring the coconut levy fund as prima facie public funds.

But there are still pending criminal cases against businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, arising from his alleged use of the coco levy fund in acquiring stakes in different companies, particularly San Miguel Corp.

Also, the Sandiganbayan has yet to decide on a number of civil cases involving the 98-percent stake in United Coconut Planters Bank—where funds from the coco levy were reportedly used—aside from the reported 20-percent equity in SMC.

Forest for the tee

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS CUTE BEHOLDEN ADministration of Gloriaetta may have to deal with more civil disturbance.

It's not as if it has not enough of that already. The Palace, and the police of course, are still trying to hush the unruly mob holding prayer rallies, using its new crowd control invention called CPR.

Now, Gloriaetta must face the ire of the poverty-stricken people of Samar, plus the Catholic church there, not to mention the politically active NGOs.

I mean, what a treat for Gloriaetta! Those people are not taking the latest political debt payback move of this cute administration just sitting down. Let's just say I smell trouble.

* * *

UNDER this cute repaying administration of Gloriaetta, all of a sudden, the DENR is allowing a company to do big-time commercial logging on the island of Samar.

That company is the San Jose Timber Corp., supposedly owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, or JPE for short.

No wonder.

During the time of Tita Cory back in 1989, our government suspended logging and created a 300,000-hectare forest preserve on the island.

A succession of secretaries at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources over the past 16 years did not dare lift the logging suspension.

In a brusque display of shamelessness, the glib current head of the DENR, Michael Defensor, recently lifted the suspension, just like that!

Not only that, under Defensor, the DENR also decided to make it up to JPE's firm: the DENR extended San Jose Timber's logging permit, technically known as TLA or timber licensing agreement, by 16 years.

The TLA of San Jose Timber covers about 96,000 hectares! The DENR gave the company the right to cut trees in the huge area.

For the information of the geniuses at the DENR, that area is roughly one and half times the size of Metro Manila!

How a single corporation came to acquire the RIGHT over such a huge area of trees—which have been there even before golf became a craze, and trees made way for tees—is beyond the impoverished people of Samar to understand.

* * *

SAN JOSE Timber acquired that "timber licensing agreement," resurrected by the DENR recently after 16 years of suspension, back in 1982.

Guess what? That was still the time of martial rule. Guess who was one of the most powerful figures in the Marcos regime?

The DENR suspended logging in Samar in 1989, which was followed by the creation of the Samar Island Nature Park.

San Jose Timber asked the DENR to lift the suspension not just once, but three times. The DENR never considered it in all these years. For one, a portion of the TLA is part of the protected area.

All of a sudden, DENR ruled that the "moratorium" (not suspension, mind you, just a "moratorium," which means something temporary) on logging in Samar was ... well, unjustified.

The DENR said that past officials of the government, in deciding on the San Jose Timber case, committed "errors."

Does it mean then that Michael Defensor and company are gods?

* * *

IT TOOK the DENR that long, all of 16 years, to decide on the case, precisely because of environmental concerns—something which various NGOs have already documented.

The Samar Integrated Nature Park, for instance, covers river systems across 300,000 hectares of natural forest. It is the habitat of 900 species of flowering plants, 197 species of birds, 39 species of mammals. There are endangered species among them.

Moreover, residing in the park are the indigenous people of Samar. No wonder, even the Catholic church in Samar is up in arms against the DENR.

The issue therefore becomes a battle for popular acceptance. On this score, this cute payback administration can only be in the losing end.

San Jose Timber may have all the RIGHT, as DENR claimed, over the forest in Samar, but the timing of the DENR decision sucks.

JPE openly defended this cute administration in the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, where Gloriaetta was accused of corruption and cheating during the election. In return for what, you ask? Perhaps, for the Samar forest!

* * *

DESPITE his glib defense of Gloriaetta during the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, Defensor now cannot find the right words to account for his action.

And so he relies on DENR Undersecretary Armando de Castro, who has claimed that even with the creation of the forest reserve, "prior rights" over the forest must still be recognized.

WHAAAT? Prior rights? Given by whom? By God? You mean to tell me, boss, anybody can have "prior right" over everybody else's future?

DENR imposed a log ban in 15 of the 16 regions in the country, by reviewing the so-called TLAs before canceling them.

Why can't the DENR cancel the freaking TLA of San Jose Timber? Prior rights, my foot!

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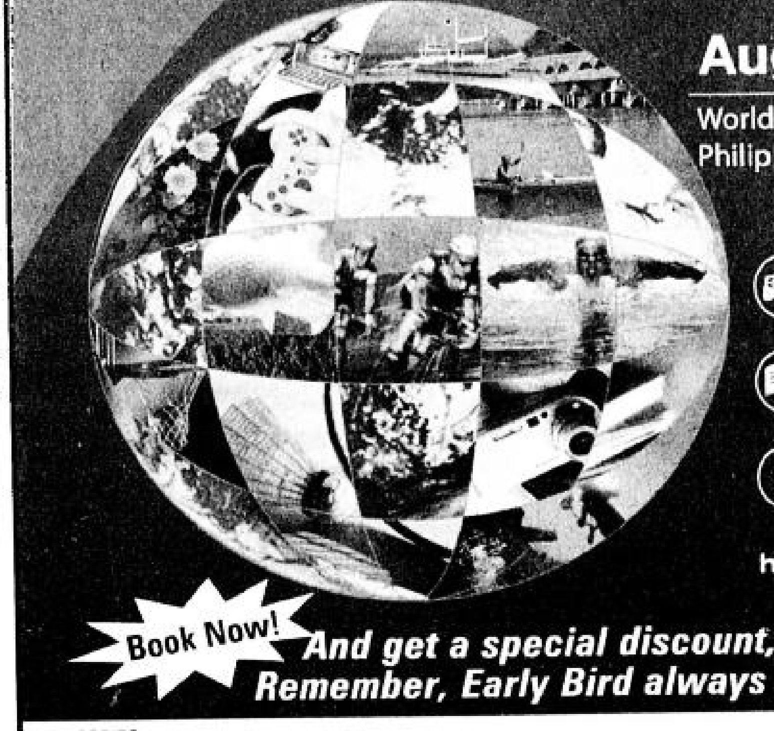

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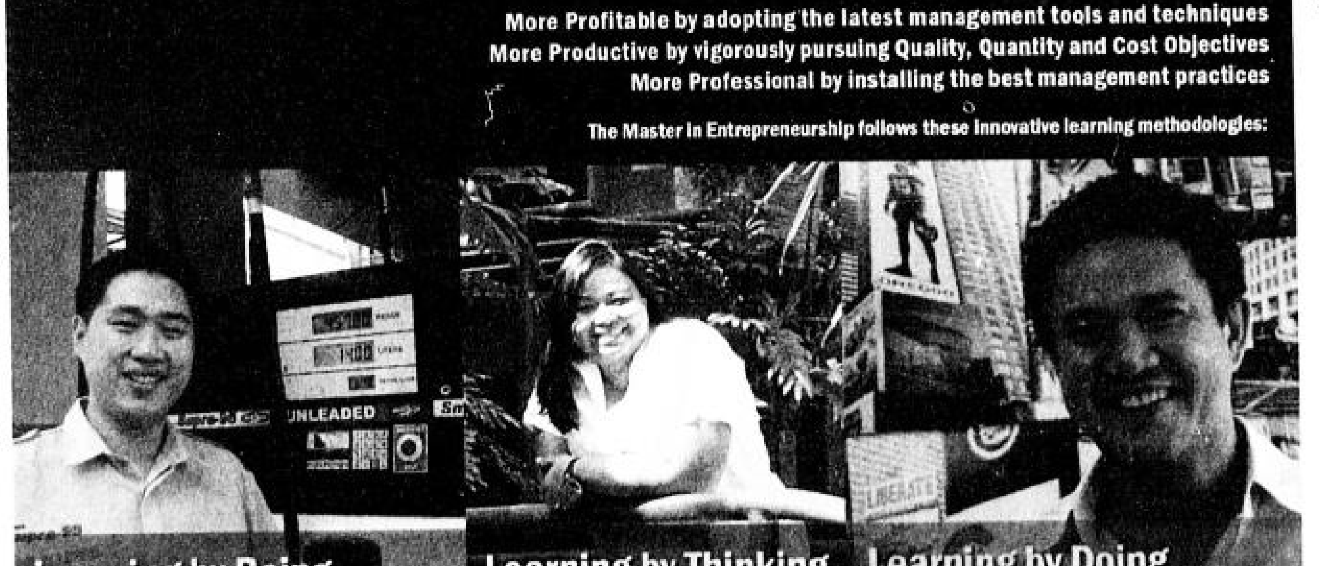

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Multimedia firm applies for nationwide franchise

By Clarissa S. Batino

MULTI-MEDIA TELEPHONY INC. HAS asked the National Telecommunications Commission for a nationwide permit to operate integrated fixed lines, public pay phones and public calling stations.

The company, which is now linked to businessman Enrique Razon, has a 25-year nationwide franchise for commercial telecommunications and television broadcasting operations since June 1998.

It has specialized in the operation of a broadband network—a high-speed infrastructure commonly used for the Internet.

Multi-Media Telephony recently secured the NTC's approval to operate a limited wireless service using the only available frequency for cellular mobile operations.

It is one of nine companies that had applied with the NTC for a frequency to operate the third-generation wireless phone service or 3G. The NTC will award 3G frequencies by the end of the year or early 2006.

Multi-Media Telephony used to be controlled by Jose de Venecia III, son of the House Speaker. But De Venecia, while still a director, had reportedly sold control to a group identified with port operator Razon.

The Commission recently gave Multi-Media a provisional authority to operate a Cellular Mobile Telephone System, or CMTS, on the condition that it would only operate a section of the 1900 band to provide mobile services linked to data and Internet operations.

The company said it was financially and technically capable of rolling out the call stations nationwide.

It said the planned expansion was in line with the government's program to develop a "viable, efficient, reliable and universal telecom infrastructure using the best available and affordable technologies."

Multi-Media said it would prioritize areas with scarce telco resources.

In Multimedia's website, the company listed Transpacific Broadcast Group International Inc. and Broadband Phils. as among its partners.

Transpacific Broadcast is the technology affiliate of ATN Holdings Inc., while Broadband said it had formed a strategic partnership with Callahan Associates International. Other investors in Broadband Phils. are Edward P. Bass Group, Angelo, Gordon & Co. LP, Investcorp and Next Century Partners.

Napocor to sell 7-year bonds

State firm needs at least $500M to fund operations

CRUZ

NATIONAL POWER CORP., THE COUNTRY's largest electricity producer, will sell 7-year zero-coupon bonds to raise P5.5 billion ($101 million), National Treasurer Omar Cruz yesterday said.

An auction today would determine the discount of the zero-coupon bonds, the proceeds of which would be used to pay Napocor's maturing debts and for capital spending this year, Cruz said.

The bonds would be guaranteed by the government, the Treasury official said in a statement.

Napocor, the single biggest strain on the government's finances, previously said it would need $500-$700 million this year to fund operations.

"When it (the 2012 bond issue) matures, it will have an P11-billion value," Cruz said.

In May, the state-owned Napocor raised P5 billion by floating P2 billion in five-year bonds at a coupon rate of 9.125 percent, and P3 billion in seven-year bonds at 10.375 percent.

The Philippines, Asia's most active issuer of sovereign bonds after Japan, this year assumed about P200 billion of Napocor's total debt of almost P600 billion to try to speed up the sale of its power plants and transmission facilities to private investors.

Napocor is expected to break even this year after having a net loss of P29.9 billion in 2004.

ING Bank NV is the arranger and lead issue manager of the latest Napocor bond offering, with PCI Capital Corp. and BDO Capital and Investment Corp. as issue managers. *Reuters*

Cebu power facility to stop operations

THE CEBU PRIVATE Power Corporation (CPPC) has announced that it will suspend operations of its power generation plant in Ermita, Cebu City on Nov. 26, because of a dispute with power distributor Visayan Electric Company (VECO) over the renegotiation of the interim supply contract with VECO.

CPPC supplies 23 percent of VECO's requirements, equivalent to 62 megawatts. VECO distributes power to Cebu City, Mandaue, and other parts of Cebu province.

Walden Tantuico of CPPC said the decision to suspend operations followed the alleged refusal by VECO management to renegotiate an interim agreement approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission last year.

The agreement, which allowed for a pricing mechanism to determine the rates charged by CPPC for power supplied to VECO, will expire on the 25th of this month.

The ERC last month ordered CPPC and VECO to renegotiate the terms of agreement.

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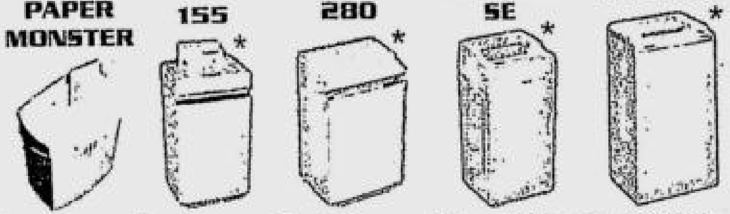
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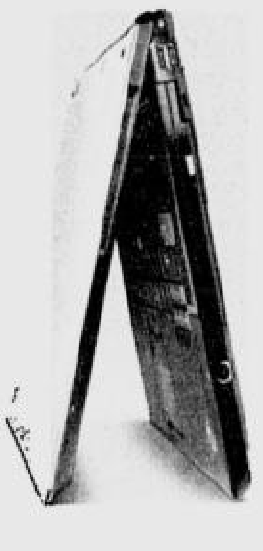
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR REHABILITATION WITH PRAYER FOR THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS AND ACTIONS AGAINST PETITIONER

SP PROC. NO. Q-05-127

EPIXTAR PHILIPPINES IT-ENABLED SERVICES CORPORATION, Petitioner.
x- -x

STAY ORDER

Before this Court is a verified Amended Petition for corporate rehabilitation with prayer for a Stay Order filed by the above-named petitioner. In its Order dated November 11, 2005, this Court deemed the Amended Petition submitted for resolution.

Briefly, the petitioner alleges that it had incurred substantial losses in 2003 and 2004 and that it has the ability to pay this capital deficit within a period of three (3) years beginning in 2007 after a debt moratorium of one year in 2006 pursuant to its proposed rehabilitation plan. The petitioner projects revenues of PhP693,632,471.00 in 2006, PhP979,020,000.00 in 2007, PhP1,279,187,368.00 in 2008, and PhP1,647,567,158.00 in 2009. Consequently, the petitioner prays for the issuance of a Stay Order pending proceedings before this Court.

A careful examination of the Amended Petition shows that the same conforms substantially with Section 2, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation (*see also* Supreme Court Resolution en banc in A.M. No. 00-8-10-SC). This Court therefore finds the Amended Petition to be sufficient in form and substance.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, this Court issued a Stay Order, in accordance with Section 6, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules, as follows:

1.) Appointing Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion as rehabilitation receiver who shall be considered as an officer of the court and who shall have the powers, duties and functions as provided in Section 14, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The rehabilitation receiver must post a bond of PhP 500,000.00 before entering upon his powers, duties and functions and must take an oath, as provided under Section 15, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The petitioner is directed to serve immediately a copy of this Stay Order upon the rehabilitation receiver, Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than five (5) days from his receipt hereof;

2.) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, and its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the petitioner including the staying of proceedings of collection cases filed against petitioner, and the staying of the enforcement/implementation of application/s for extra-judicial foreclosure sale/s and actual foreclosure sale/s, if any, against the real and personal properties of the petitioner;

3.) Prohibiting the petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any matter any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;

4.) Prohibiting the petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of the filing of the petition on October 7, 2005;

5.) Prohibiting the suppliers of the petitioner from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioner makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order;

6.) Directing the petitioner to pay in full all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order;

The initial hearing on the Amended Petition is set on December 6, 2005 (Tuesday) at 2:00 P.M. at the session room of Branch 90 of this Court located at the Ground Floor of the Hall of Justice Building, Quezon City Hall Complex, Quezon City. In the event the initial hearing does not push through for any reason like there is no work on said date, the hearing shall be reset to December 8, 2005 (Thursday) at 2:00 P.M. All creditors and all interested parties including the Securities and Exchange Commission are directed to file with this Court and serve upon the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the Amended Petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing as set forth above, and they are put on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings before this Court. All creditors and all interested parties are further directed to secure from this Court copies of the Amended Petition and its annexes within such time as to enable them to file their verified comment on or opposition thereto and to prepare them for the initial hearing and to attain this purpose, the petitioner is ordered to file with this Court initially twenty (20) additional copies of the Amended Petition and its annexes within ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

The petitioner is furthermore directed by this Court to have a copy of this Order published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Philippine Star, and one other newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines chosen by raffle if it is a newspaper other than the herein-named newspaper, considering the probable presence of numerous creditors and interested parties, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks, with the last publication effected at least seven (7) days prior to the date of initial hearing as set forth above, at the expense of the petitioner.

Ms. Sylvia Joy D. Corrales, OIC, Branch Clerk of Court, is ordered to see to it that the Process Server shall serve immediately copies of this Stay Order upon: 1) Atty. Carina Lenore Sumilong Bayon (the corporate secretary and duly authorized representative of the petitioner), 5th Floor, Epixtar House, 5 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City, Cyberpark, No. 188 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City; 2) Atty. Rafael E. Khan, Siguion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiaco (counsel for the petitioner), 4th and 6th Floors Citibank Center, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City; 3) Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion (the rehabilitation receiver), Lena Subdivision, Valenzuela City, and 4) the Honorable Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA (Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue) Mandaluyong City.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, November 14, 2005

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. DAWAY, C.P.A.
Presiding Judge

PS Nos. 22 & 29, 2005

Hot money flows into the market

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

AFTER A QUIET WEEK, I GOT BORED AND decided to do something I have wanted to do for about a year. I bought a large, flat LCD TV. I have been looking at them enviously for a long time but they are too expensive. However, prices have been falling and with my connections, I was able to get a 25-year mortgage with zero interest. The bank timed it so that my last payment will coincide with my 100th birthday. Unfortunately, our bedroom is rather small so to make room for the TV, we had to get rid of our bed. We are now sleeping on the floor on tatami mats, Japanese style.

My daughter and I watched the Lion King, Fantasia, Sound of Music, and best of all, the Phantom of the Opera, which came out a few weeks ago. The clarity was extraordinary, easily as good as the demo tapes, and she was jumping up and down with excitement. Eventually, when I have finally paid off the TV, we will buy another bed.

Our neighbor had a row with one of his two sons. In a fit of rage, he went to a lawyer, threw the will on his desk and said, "I want an heircut." Actually, this is a variation of a joke about a fertility clinic. They discovered that the most effective way to get women pregnant was to insert the sperm into an aerosol. They call it heirspray.

Now that the VAT has gone into effect, there will be unexpected changes. For example, farmers will find that fertilizer will become fortylizer; musicians will discover that a pianoforte is now a pianofifty. Even the convenient chain store 7-11 will become 8-12. And those who borrow 5-6 will pay 6-7. The 100-meter dash will be lengthened to 110-meters and golfers will soon play 19.8 holes.

According to a British newspaper, the Chinese President Hu paid a state visit to the Queen a few weeks ago. He rode down the Mall in the Queen's coach and stopped just outside the palace. "The Chinese President is here, Your Majesty", said a servant. "Who"? said the Queen. "Yes, he has been waiting 5 minutes." "I quite forgot. I think I need a fillip". Fortunately, Prince Philip was standing just behind her.

* * *

IT WAS a boring week in the stock market, at least for the first 4 days. The Phisix just drifted lower everyday in low volume. On Friday, my solar-powered tricycle broke down owing to dark clouds and I arrived about 20 minutes late. To my surprise, the market was booming except for TEL. It was partly due to reduction in the October deficit from P10 billion to P7 billion, and partly to the strength of the peso. Even so, the index was down on the week and the net foreign buying of P68 million on Friday was wholly attributable to AC (P93 million).

Dec. 1 is fast approaching so the new index stocks may have further to rise, and around the middle of next month, all the blue chips will be marked up on window dressing. It happens every year and with the political scene more settled, this year should be no exception. Hold the leaders until Jan. 10 or thereabouts. It has been right to do this 9 years out of 10.

I do not know what has happened to First Gen. The head of the new issue department has not heard anything, nor have some of the underwriters. If the prospectus does not appear soon, it will run into the Christmas season and may have to be deferred until next year. A pity since this will be a much-sought IPO.

As you know, I follow markets and commodities worldwide. The Nasdaq is at a 4-1/2 year high, the Nikkei is at a 5-year high, and some Asian stocks are at a 5-1/2 year high. Also, at a 4-1/2 year high is gold, up $19 in 2 days. With everything else booming, we are still 40-percent below our 1997 high of 3,420 so I think we are just starting to play catch up.

The outlook is certainly better now that the VAT law is in effect and with three rollbacks in the price of petrol (I don't know the American word), the price is almost back to the pre-VAT era. We shall have a 9-percent electricity increase to face, but not until 2006. I expect there will be a P25 across-the-board increase in Manila even though CARRIER says it will close down its factories and move to China. They say it will be cheaper to ship to the Philippines.

The replacement of two top directors in SMART came as a shock because the company is doing quite well. Apparently, there were serious differences between them so Manny Pangilinan appointed two new directors to take over. I think foreigners got wind of this because TEL fell P100 from its high for no obvious reason. It recovered partially yesterday.

Most foreign brokers have one-year price targets of P1,900-P2,050 on TEL and REGIS has just upgraded its price target from P1,800 to P1,980. On Friday, I published in the newsletter an up-to-date list of price targets for 15 leading stocks. Some are above the current market price by as much as 25 percent while others are below and are rated SELL or REDUCE. This information is extremely useful in deciding which stocks to BUY for the yearend rally.

The newsletter is only suitable for sophisticated investors who know what P/E ratios are and have at least P1 million to trade short term. It is ideal for insurance companies, managed funds and short-term traders who have some knowledge of charts, i.e. support and resistance levels. The number of subscribers is kept at an exceedingly small number so that the service is personalized

A while ago, I wrote that BEL looked interesting at 93 centavos as Henry SY was accumulating the shares through SMDC, one of SMIC's subsidiaries. The company has just announced profits up 424 percent in the first 9 months and the shares are now P1.12. Shrewd guy, this Henry SY.

Last week, 21 world leaders, including President Bush, Prime Minister Koizumi and Prime Minister Tony Blair, met in BUSAN for their annual summit, but nothing much came out of it except that they agreed to meet again next year. Thailand's Prime Minister THAKSIN said, "Developing nations would suffer if next month's WTO talks in Hong Kong fail. We cannot afford another failure, which would lead to increased protectionism around the world. This is dangerous to all, and very dangerous to developing countries. A deal would add billions of dollars to the global economy." I must confess that I am not very optimistic because the problems are extremely complex. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Credit Lyonnais unit turns bullish on RP

Elated by VAT passage

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CREDIT LYONNAIS SECURITIES Asia (CLSA) has become bullish on the Philippines after the implementation of the expanded value-added tax lax last Nov. 1.

In a research report, CLSA Philippines Inc. head of research Alfred Dy said the VAT law could help push the stock market index to 2,300 by 2006 since the new tax measure translates to a stronger peso and will keep potential increases in interest rates at bay.

But even with the expected growth in the index level, the Philippines may still be trading at a premium compared with other emerging markets like Thailand and Indonesia.

"The (Philippine) market is now trading at a full year 2005 price-to-earnings ratio of 15 times against earnings growth of 10 percent in 2005, and 13.4 times for 2006 on earnings growth of 11 percent (for 2006). Clearly, the market remains expensive vis-à-vis the markets in Thailand and Indonesia," Dy wrote.

Yesterday, the PSE composite index surged 2.2 percent to 2,126.56 or 46.58 points.

The VAT law is expected to generate P5 billion in revenues this year for the government's coffers and P85 billion a year starting in 2006.

Dy said the removal of VAT exemptions on certain industries should raise P50 billion a year for the government while the lifting of the tax rate to 12 percent in January 2006 should raise P36 billion a year.

The VAT law removes exemptions of several industries such as electricity, petroleum and transportation.

It also gives an option to the President to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent in January 2006 from 10 percent should the VAT collection be lower than 2.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and if the the budget deficit exceeds 1.5 percent of GDP.

The government had said the successful implementation of the VAT law should result in a budget deficit of less than P180 billion this year, or 3.4 percent of GDP, and P125 billion next year or 2.1 percent of GDP.

"We believe that the VAT should result in a stronger currency and stable interest rates. Note that both of these are supportive of a stronger stock market. In fact, since the VAT was implemented, the stock market is up 4.4 percent (as of Nov. 8 when the report was released) while the currency has mildly appreciated to P54.6 to $1 from P54.88," Dy said.

Dy added that even if President Macapagal Arroyo decides not to implement the increase in the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent, the Philippines' 2006 deficit should reach P161 billion, which is equivalent to 2.7 percent of the GDP.

"This worst-case scenario is still good in our view given that the deficit as a percentage to GDP was at 5 percent a couple of years back," Dy said in his report.

Treasury bill rates . . .

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equivalent to 100 basis points.)

"The confidence of the market in the fiscal position shows consistent over-performance. It continues to gain momentum and there is no question about how it will end the year," Cruz said in a briefing after the auction.

The Bureau of Treasury last week announced that the national government's budget deficit for the first 10 months of the year stood at only 115.5 billion, or P40.5 billion below the P156-billion ceiling set for the period.

The national government has officially set a budget deficit ceiling of P180 billion this year, or 3.4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). This was down from P187 billion, or 3.9 percent of GDP, for 2004.

But the fiscal over-performance as of the first 10 months suggested that the deficit figure for the full year would be much lower than the P180-billion ceiling, authorities said.

"My cash position is incredibly good. They (market) will not see those very high rates for a long time," Cruz said.

He said some P13 billion worth of maturing government securities this week would further increase banks' liquidity, a large part of which is expected to be placed again in treasury bills and bonds, thus putting more downward pressure on interest rates.

With the high level of liquidity in the market, Cruz said investors were also expected to scramble for the auction of seven-year, zero-coupon bonds that will be issued by state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) today. *(See story on page B3.)*

Metrobank sells ₱6.8B worth . . .

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but would also explore large-scale transactions with foreign and local institutional buyers to substantially reduce, if not completely dispose of, its foreclosed asset portfolio by next year.

The transaction was done even without incentives from the Special Purpose Vehicle Law, which expired last April.

The law aimed to help banks get rid of their bad assets by waiving the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and VAT (expanded value-added tax) and by reducing the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

Metrobank's total resources stood at P481.4 billion as of end-September. It reported a 21-percent growth in net profits to P3.2 billion for the first nine months of the year from P2.64 billion a year ago.

The increase in net earnings was attributed to improvements in net interest income.

Benguet, Philex reverse losses in 3rd quarter

MAJOR MINING FIRMS REPORTED MIXED results for the third quarter, with Benguet Corp. and Philex Mining reversing previous net losses.

Benguet said its net income for the third quarter hit P110 million, a turnaround from the net loss of P83 million in the same period last year.

For the nine-month period, Benguet also cut its consolidated net losses to P43 million from P185 million in the same period last year.

Benguet said consolidated revenues declined to P63 million in the third quarter from P76 million in the same quarter of 2004.

For the nine-month period, operating revenues grew 5 percent to P233 million from P222 million in 2004 due to improved shipment of chromite during the year.

Its Acupan contract mining project in Benguet also continued to show profitability, recording a net income of P4 million for the quarter and P11 million for the nine-month period.

Its Masinloc chromite operation in Zambales meanwhile suffered net losses of P6 million in the third quarter and P17 million in the nine-month period. The losses were mainly due to higher cost of sales and write-off of chromite inventory.

Philex, on the other hand, said its consolidated net income for the first nine months of 2005 amounted to P236.4 million, a significant turnaround from net losses of P133.7 million in the same period last year.

The increase in concentrate shipments to 59,306 tons, containing copper and gold, and higher metal prices at $1.63 a pound for copper and $409 an ounce for gold, from last year's prices of $1.10 and $370, boosted operating revenue to P3.4 billion this year from P2.1 billion last year.

The increase in revenue was partly offset by higher operating cost and expenses of P2.9 billion this year from P2.1 billion last year. Income from operations stood at P463.3 million, a marked improvement from the prior year's P19 million.

On the other hand, top gold producer and one of the country's oldest mining firms, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., reported a consolidated net loss of P384 million in the first nine months from an income of P29 million in the same period last year due to lower gold production as a result of a 100-day labor strike that lasted until Sept. 11. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Shares . . .

From page B1

day, the index gained 1.2 percent.

Investors have been cheered by the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law earlier this month, which should help improve the government's budget situation. And the October budget deficit data issued last week showed that the government is managing to keep its spending under control.

Blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, up 1.7 percent at P1,795, on the positive earnings outlook for the full year of the country's biggest telecommunications group.

The announced departures of key officials of PLDT mobile phone unit Smart Communications didn't hurt investor sentiment, traders said. *AP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 21, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33.5	36	33.5	34.5	1,865,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	60	61.5	60	60.5	1,465,400
China Banking Corp.	610	610	610	610	200
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	21	21	20.5	20.5	5,300
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	1,390,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53	55	53	54.5	376,400
International Exch. Bank	21	21.5	21	21.5	18,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30.5	30	30.5	817,100
Philippine National Bank	30	30.5	30	30.5	130,900
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	10,600
Security Bank Corp.	36	36.5	36	36	1,816,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31	31	31	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	24.5	25	6,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3055	3055	3055	3055	400
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2070	2070	2070	2070	180
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	15,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.92	0.93	17,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	735	740	735	740	57,600
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	86,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	6,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	39,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.45	10,146,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1750	1800	1750	1795	127,390
Ivantage Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	234,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	24,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	23	22.5	23	1,612,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.8	6,536,000
Petron Corp.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.3	5,564,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.99	0.96	0.99	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	195,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	490,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.2	9.6	9.2	9.6	688,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.67	0.69	0.65	0.66	1,400,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	1,804,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.85	3	2.85	3	3,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.65	110,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	153,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	160,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	1,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	39.5	38.5	39	888,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.55	57,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	83,900
San Miguel Corp. B	90	90	89	90	132,200
Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	17.5	16.75	17.5	56,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	320,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	42,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	6,000,000
Ayala Corp.	322.5	347.5	322.5	347.5	474,450
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	799,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	7,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.16	2.18	2.16	2.16	70,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	6,220,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	89,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	850,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.14	9,136,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	150,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	700,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	10,210,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.4	2,764,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.32	368,000
F&J Princ.e Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48	51	48	51	1,406,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	1,200,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	35,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	30	30	30	30	100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	453,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.68	1.76	1.68	1.68	311,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.32	6,315,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	23,470,000
Paxys Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	2,982,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.2	2,070,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	57,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	660,000
Sm Investments Corp.	252.5	255	250	252.5	596,740
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	55,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.09	0.09	0.0825	0.0825	600,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,110,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	240,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.78	50,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	103,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	60,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.1	27,946,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	150,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	1,095,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	3,150,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.25	13.75	13	13.5	419,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	11,000
Far Eastern University	620	620	620	620	800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.5	9.9	9.5	9.9	9,895,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.99	1.06	0.99	1.06	1,240,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,860,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	90,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	1,470,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	6,120,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	4,450,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.46	6,336,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	260,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	532,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	700,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.7	8.3	8.6	17,412,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	30,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	727,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8.2	8	8.2	7,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	161,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	5,430,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	7,640,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	43,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	40,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	44,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.16	1,950,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	5,299,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	1,170,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	370,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	42,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.65	3.65	147,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	16,810,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	550,000

CURRENCIES

November 21, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.849473	1.000000	54.4770
Japan	Yen	0.007134	0.008398	0.4575
United Kingdom	Pound	1.459735	1.718400	93.6133
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109568	0.128984	7.0267
Switzerland	Franc	0.646135	0.760630	41.4368
Canada	Dollar	0.714444	0.841043	45.8175
Singapore	Dollar	0.499955	0.588547	32.0623
Australia	Dollar	0.622051	0.732279	39.8924
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.253843	2.653224	144.5397
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226508	0.266645	14.5260
Brunei	Dollar	0.498488	0.586820	31.9682
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000099	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020629	0.024284	1.3229
UAE	Dirham	0.231281	0.272264	14.8321
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.177200	64.1303
Argentina	Peso	0.288691	0.339847	18.5138
Brazil	Real	0.381888	0.449559	24.4906
Denmark	Kroner	0.134099	0.157861	8.5998
India	Rupee	0.018580	0.021872	1.1915
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224788	0.264620	14.4157
Mexico	New Peso	0.079718	0.093844	5.1123
New Zealand	Dollar	0.582989	0.686295	37.3873
Norway	Kroner	0.126800	0.149269	8.1317
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014201	0.016717	0.9107
South Africa	Rand	0.126901	0.149388	8.1382
Korea	Won	0.000819	0.000964	0.0525
Sweden	Kroner	0.104247	0.122720	6.6854
Syria	Pound	0.016364	0.019264	1.0494
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025290	0.029771	1.6218
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000396	0.000466	0.0254

Sony Ericsson expands range with new handsets offering

SONY ERICSSON IS EXPANDING ITS product line-up with the introduction of three new handsets offering a combination of design quality, ease of use and value that reaches out to a broad range of consumers with basic mobile phone needs for calling and texting.

The new models are the J220i, a phone optimized for ease of use with simplified one-click menu access; the J230i, which also offers simplified menu access as well as an FM radio; and the Z300i, an attractive clamshell phone with beautiful design lines.

With each handset having its own appeal, these entry-level phones are focused on making voice and text communications as easy as possible with great design, and the use of features such as one-click navigation, single icon menus, and color screens.

The Sony Ericsson J220i allows consumers to personalize their menu view by choosing between a visually simple single icon menu and the popular Sony Ericsson multi-icon menu that gives an at-a-glance overview of all the key functions. The one-click navigation key and icon markings on the navigation key make it simpler and easier to access the most commonly used functions. This handset can store up to 500 phone numbers and up to 200 SMS. The J220i is available in smooth black or sky blue colors and can be personalized with Style-Up covers.

Staying in tune to your favorite music, sports or news stations is never a problem with the Sony Ericsson J230i's built-in stereo FM radio. The phone also comes equipped with a stereo hands-free and a speaker phone located at the back of the handset for enhanced user experience. The J230i even allows a choice between the single or multi-icon menu styles and provides easy access to handset features with the one-click interface. Listening to the radio, answering a call, looking up a phone number, and starting an SMS message are all done in one click. In addition, the handset offers a phone book storage capacity of up to 500 phone numbers and a large SMS storage capacity of up to 200 messages. The J230i comes in cosmo white, cherry red or deep blue and can also be personalized with the Style-Up covers.

For style-conscious individuals looking for a simple phone that fits their mood, taste and lifestyle, the elegant Z300i clamshell phone comes in granite grey and amethyst purple colors. Each Z300i box even includes Crystal Décor beads which customers can use to decorate and personalize their phone. Open the clamshell to reveal a bright, sharp color display, a large keypad plus a navigation key that reaches all the main functions in one click. The outer display shows the clock and incoming caller information. The Z300i also offers a phone book, calendar, alarm clock, games, reminders, and even allows consumers to personalize their phones with the Style-Up covers available from accessory outlets.

The Z300i will reach local stores in Q4 2005 while the Sony Ericsson J220i and J230i will be available in the Philippines by Q1 2006.

CLARK LLAGA
Five Million Pesos

GLOBE'S WIN-A-FANTASY PROMO WINNER RECEIVES P5 MILLION

Aside from the fun and entertainment that downloadable ringtones, games, and logos provide, myGlobe's Win-a-Fantasy promo gave longtime Globe subscriber Clark Llaga a chance to fulfill his dreams. A Quezon City resident and scriptwriter for a TV sitcom, Clark received P5 million just by subscribing to myGlobe services. Each download automatically entitled the subscriber to an equivalent number of raffle entries. Clark recalls that he downloaded a word game called 'Unjumble', one of the many features available from myGlobe, purely on a whim. 'I was just playing the game to pass the time,' he says. 'Nagulat ako later when Globe representatives contacted me and informed me to claim my prize.' Even when he showed up to claim his prize, Clark was still in shock and could not believe that he had actually won. Once he realized that it's for real, however, he was thrilled and very thankful for his stroke of luck. He says that he plans to invest the money wisely and use some of it to help his brother out with a business venture. Other Globe subscribers can also get the chance to fulfill their dreams with exciting downloads and services from myGlobe. Find out all about the latest logos, ringtones, games, and picture messages and watch out for upcoming promos. Just text your question (e.g., TONES NINA) to ASKG (or 2754). Photo shows myGlobe Win-a-Fantasy promo winner Clark Llaga (third from left) receiving a check for P5 million pesos from (from left): Globe Telecom's Cookie Uy, Sharon de Guzman, and Madeleine de Guzman, and Xurpas vice president for operations Raymond Racaza.

GENYO LAUNCHES E-CUBE GAMES

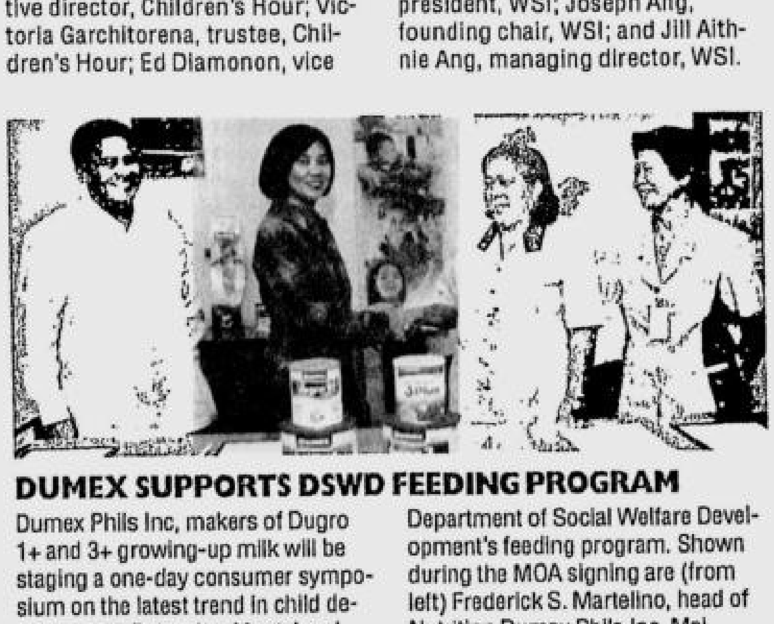
Genyo, the first Philippine-produced e-learning program for high school recently launched the I-Diwa E-Cube Games. This is another addition to the many fun and interactive features of the e-learning program. Two games that Genyo users can enjoy to improve their vocabulary and general knowledge are LTRLinx and Letter Jury. LTRlinx is a multiplayer word game based on creating anagrams. An anagram is a word spelled out by rearranging the letters of another word. It is a fun way to test one's vocabulary and general knowledge skills. Letter Jury, on the other hand, is an adaptation of the classic HangMan Game. The object of the game is to successfully guess a hidden word by entering letters of the alphabet one by one. Player needs to solve the secret word with a time limit. Genyo is a fully integrated program serving teacher, students, schools and parents. It includes a multi-media software that contains Math, Science and Araling Panlipunan modules, broadband connectivity, a cellphone driven homework helper plus broadcast center, an integrated learning portal and teacher training program. For more information about I-Diwa E-Cube Games and Genyo, log on to www.idiwa.ph or call Diwa Learning Systems at 8178700.

SHELL RECOGNIZES TOP STUDENT ARTISTS

Students, university officials, artists and special guests gathered as the Shell art season culminated in the awarding of the 38th National Students Art Competition winners in SM Megamall. Photographed during the ribbon cutting for the exhibition of the top 100 entries are (from left to right) Randy Kanapi, Epson marketing communications manager; Former Pasig Mayor Mario Raymundo; professor Tom Briones of Far Eastern University (partly hidden); dean Ginny Dandan of UP College of Fine Arts; Angelito Alvarez, president of Airfreight 2100 and Romy de Guzman, VP external affairs, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation.

CHILDREN'S HOUR, WSI INK AGREEMENT

Worldbex Services International (WSI) recently finalized its agreement with Children's Hour Phils Inc, making the latter the main beneficiary of the proceeds of the WSI-organized World Bazaar Festival slated on Dec. 8 to 16 at the World Trade Center. Present during the signing were Evangeline Mayuga, executive director, Children's Hour; Victoria Garchitorena, trustee, Children's Hour; Ed Diamonon, vice president, WSI; Joseph Ang, founding chair, WSI; and Jill Aithnie Ang, managing director, WSI.



DUMEX SUPPORTS DSWD FEEDING PROGRAM

Dumex Phils Inc, makers of Dugro 1+ and 3+ growing-up milk will be staging a one-day consumer symposium on the latest trend in child development: Balancing Mental and Emotional Intelligence. This lecture is most beneficial to parents who want to strengthen their skills with breakthrough concepts and enhanced child development techniques. Proceeds from the event will support the Department of Social Welfare Development's feeding program. Shown during the MOA signing are (from left) Frederick S. Martelino, head of Nutrition Dumex Phils Inc, Mel Chang Choy president and general manager Dumex Phils Inc, Honorita B. Bayudan OIC Regional Director DSWD-NCR and Rosario B. Dela Rosa executive director of the Kalsahang Buhay Foundation.

Bits Clips

DOT launches Ipar

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM LAUNCHES THE Visayas Leg of the Island Paradise Adventure Race (Ipar), the biggest adventure race ever in the Philippines. Set to run from Dec. 10 to 18, it will take participants through 50 destinations across southern Luzon, the beaches of Puerto Galera and Boracay, Capiz and Iloilo, Negros, Bohol, and Cebu. The Island Paradise Adventure Race - Visayas Leg is open to everyone. Teams consisting of 2 members at least 18 years old can race for the P1 million grand prize. The 2nd and 3rd place finishers will bring home P200,000 and P100,000 in prize money, respectively. Application period is ongoing until Nov. 30. Interested participants may contact the Event Secretariat for the entry forms. Ask for Hussein or Pepe at 524-1997/(0928)797-7904, or e-mail ipar_dot@yahoo.com. Registration fee is P3,000 per team.

Back-to-back specials at Makuhari Bar

MAKUHARI BAR WILL HAVE BACK-TO-BACK SPECIALS HAPPENING THIS November. South Border performs on Nov. 23, with sister bands K24/7 and Natural High. Slated on Nov. 26 is RetroSpect. Check out Makuhari Bar located at 2nd Floor Kimura Vale Center, 1971 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila. Ticket prices for the back-to-back specials with South Border on Nov. 23 is P350 with 1 standard drink while the RetroSpect show is at P250 also with 1 standard drink. You may call 536-0123 or 0927-3032812 for additional inquiries.

National Book Week celebrates 71st year

THE 71ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOOK WEEK WILL BE FROM Nov. 24 to 30. Activities scheduled on Nov. 24 include a Funwalk around Rizal Park, Book Character Parade, Holy Mass and Opening of Exhibit. Opening ceremonies will be held at the TNL Auditorium with NCCA Chair Ambeth M. Ocampo as keynote speaker. This will be followed by the awarding of winners for the Essay-Writing and Story Telling contests. From Nov. 25 to 29 the different library associations have lined-up a series of activities. Manila Hotel president Jose D. Lina will be the guest speaker at the Fellowship Luncheon at Manila Hotel on Nov. 30. Presentation of the 2005 PLAI awardees will cap the NBW celebration.

Itzamatch gears up for Webbys Finals

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED AS ONE OF THE FIVE FINALISTS FOR BEST WEBSITE (eServices Category) in the prestigious Philippine Web Awards, itzamatch.com now braces itself for a challenging final round. Aside from the Best Website award for each category, PWA is also giving out a People's Choice Award to the website that gets the most votes from the public. Voting through text and online at www.philippinewebawards.com has already been opened. Those who want to vote for itzamatch.com can go to the PWA website and vote online, or text WEBBYS VOTE 61 to 2973 (Globe/Touch Mobile) or 283 (Smart/Talk & Text). Winners for Best Website and People's Choice for each category will receive their prizes during the Awards Night to be held Nov. 25 at the Meralco Theater, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

Global Education Fair at Dusit Hotel Nikko

MORE THAN 40 RENOWNED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FROM THE UK, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and 3 Commonwealth countries will take part in the Global Education Fair which runs at the ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City on Nov. 25 to 26. The fair will present a diverse range of high quality programmes in arts and design, hotel and restaurant management, engineering, telecommunications and business management. Open from 1 p.m. to 7 a.m., it will also feature supplementary seminars to give Filipinos a better idea of what it is like to study overseas, particularly in these countries. Those interested may register by logging onto www.studyineurope.org.ph. The exhibition is free of charge.

Grant proposal writing seminar

TRITIUM KNOWLEDGE CENTER PUBLISHING (TKCP), PUBLISHER OF THE Proposal Writing Guidebook and the Dictionary of International Funding Organizations, NGOs, Corporate Donors, and Relief Agencies is conducting a "Winning Grant Proposal Writing" seminar for NGOs, cooperatives, foundations, people's organizations, other community and social oriented organizations, LGUs, universities and schools. The seminar will be held on Nov. 25 at the Richville Hotel, 286 Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Interested participants may contact TKCP at 531-0084, 0919-229-9770, 0919-229-9780 and 0915-780-4379.

'Man of La Mancha' slated at Greenbelt I

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH IN MAGALLANES VILLAGE IS sponsoring Repertory Philippines' production of "Man of La Mancha" on Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m. at Onstage Theater, Greenbelt 1, Makati as part of a fund-raising drive for the rebuilding of its church which burned down last year. "Man of La Mancha", a multi-awarded musical based on the novel "Don Quixote de la Mancha" by Miguel de Cervantes is directed by Baby Barredo with choreography by Douglas Nierras and features an all-star cast led by Michael Williams, Malou Lauchengco Yulo, Cocoy Laurel and Joy Virata. Tickets are available at the St. Alphonsus parish office (852-8228) at Magallanes Village, Makati.

2GO introduces QuikPac XL

ABOITIZ 2GO'S EXPRESS COURIER DIVISION INTRODUCES THE LATEST ADDITION to its Quik products - the QuikPac XL. QuikPac are pouches, with sizes Small, Medium and Large, used for sending documents and various items that fit into standard-sized pouches. And, now, with the QuikPac XL, one can do away with sending small items through the conventional box. For as low as P140 per transaction, the QuikPac XL accommodates up to four kilos, and fits more items ranging from documents, foodstuff and optical frames, to cellular phones, spare parts, clothing and much more. Quikpac XL is available at any of Aboitiz 2GO's 300 outlets nationwide. Door-to-door delivery is also offered at no additional charge. 2GO Quik products include QuikBox, boxes for sending cargo; and QuikCash, 24-hour door-to-door delivery of money, with the lowest transaction rate of P88 for the first P5,000. All 2GO express services can be tracked thru SMS and the web. For inquiries, call the 2GO Hotline, 898-7845 or log on to www.2GO.com.ph

CITYSTATE BANK AWARDED BY NCQA

Publicly listed Citystate Savings Bank was awarded 2005 Top Savings Bank by the National Quality Awards Committee (NCQA) for the third consecutive year (2003/2004). NCQA is conferred on 'Quality and Outstanding Consumer Products, Manufacturers and Companies' adjudged on Product Feature or Quality, Contribution to Consumers or Public Service, Public Opinion and Survey, and Pricing. Jonathan N. Navea, NCQA chair, is shown presenting the award to Citystate president D. Alfred A. Cabangon.

EMPOWERING FILIPINO WOMEN

Ponstan 250 SF, a Mefenamic Acid brand trusted by millions of Filipinos for the relief of headaches, body and tension pains, strengthens its commitment to helping Filipino women live better lives as it expressed support for the empowered Filipina in the recently concluded First Philippine Summit on Women and Technology by offering quality products that are essential in relieving pains that may hamper women from realizing their full potential.

MOA SIGNING
11, 2005
GLOBAL C

STI GRANTS ABS-CBN BAYAN SCHOLARS

STI College and ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation signed a memorandum of agreement giving 50 scholarship grants to the children of the latter's clients. The scholarship grants amounts to P11.6 million. The four-year period project is set to start in the next school year. Photo shows (from left) Edmundo M. Castañeda, director of STI College Cubao and Global City; Teresita Lagman, STI Cubao president and CEO; Regina Paz Lopez, ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation president; and Reno Rayel, ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation executive director.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 05-4SG-030
Annual House of Representatives Health Care Program for the Year 2006
House of Representatives, Quezon City

Standard Form Number SF-GOOD-05
Revised on July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The House of Representatives, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers, manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

Name of Project	Annual House of Representatives Health Care Program for the Year 2006
Location	House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Brief Description	Comprehensive Health Maintenance Service Program for Members of the House of Representatives, House Officials and Rank and File Employees
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 20,237,182 56
Contract Duration	January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006
Delivery Period	January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows

	Activities	Schedule
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov 22 – Dec 1, 2005
2	Pre-bid Conference	December 6, 2005
3	Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals/Opening of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Envelopes	December 19, 2005
4	Bid Evaluation	December 19, 2005
5	Post-qualification	December 21, 2005
6	Notice of Award	December 29, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Ten Thousand Pesos Only (P10,000.00)** to the House of Representatives Cashier before 3 00 P M

The complete set of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents may be obtained at the (Bids and Awards Committee-Secretariat) Office of the Procurement and Supply Management Service, South Wing Extension, c/o Mr Dominador M Gamboa, BAC-Secretariat Head (Tel Nos 931-5683 & 931-5001 loc 7523 & 7398) Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals shall be placed in separate and marked sealed envelopes addressed to Atty Leonardo B Palicte III, Bids and Awards Committee Chairman, c/o the BAC-Secretariat and dropped in the bid box located at the Conference Room, Deputy Secretary General for Internal Audit, South Wing Basement, House of Representatives, National Government Center, Constitution Hills, Quezon City **Deadline of submission and receipt of sealed bids shall be on Monday, December 19, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.**

The House of Representatives assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

Approved by
(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONARDO B. PALICTE III
BAC Chairman

(PDI – November 22 & 29, 2005)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

November 16 , 2005
MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. AO -2k5-11-003

TO : ALL RICE-BASED FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER SECTORS (INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES)

FROM : THE NFA ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT : GENERAL GUIDELINES ON THE PARTICIPATION OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND ALL OTHER SECTORS IN THE IMPORTATION OF RICE FOR YEAR 2006

Pursuant to the powers granted to the National Food Authority (NFA) under Presidential Decree No. 4, as amended, to establish rules and regulations governing the importation of rice and by virtue of Council Resolution No.243-2k5 dated October 19, 2005, this Memorandum Circular is hereby issued for the information and compliance of all concerned.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Rice importation under this circular shall be undertaken under a regime with Quantitative Restrictions in place pursuant to Republic Act No. 8178. However, instead of the National Food Authority (NFA) issuing import permits, all rice importation other than NFA's shall be covered by Letters of Credit (LC), Documents Against Acceptance (DA) and Documents Against Payment (DP) to be opened with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

2. In line with the government's policy of providing assistance to rice farmers to become agri-enterpreneurs, Farmers' Organizations (FOs) whose membership consist of at least 50% + 1 palay farmers, shall be granted initially 100,000 METRIC TONS of the rice import volume. All other sectors shall be allocated 38,000 METRIC TONS of the volume to be imported.

3. FOs and other sectors intending to avail of the privilege to engage in the business of importing rice must first secure a license from the NFA as an importer and other incidental lines of business activity. They shall be subject to the usual licensing requirements which include among others, proof of its operations and active grains business activity from 2004 or earlier. The license shall be valid for one year and shall expire on December 31, 2006.

4. All importation shall be subject to the payment of tariff/duties, taxes and other fees that may be required. NFA shall, from time to time, prescribe a benchmark price that will be the basis of the LBP to evaluate the advance duties to be deposited by the importer.

5. Each importer whether FOs or other sectors can only avail of a maximum of 5,000 MT for the entire year.

6. The import volume shall be available to all FOs and all other sectors nationwide. However, the volume of 100,000 MT shall initially be exclusively allocated to qualified FOs while 38,000 MT shall be allocated for all other sectors, excluding rice based FOs, on a first-come-first-served basis. All other sectors shall have until May 31, 2006 to open/avail of LC, DA and DP with LBP.

Out of the 100,000 MT exclusively allocated to FOs, 50,000 MT shall be opened on a first-come-first-served basis to all qualified FOs nationwide. FOs have until April 15, 2006 to open/avail Letters of Credit, DA and DP and deposit the required advance duties with the LBP. Any unavailed allocation shall be opened to all importers (FOs/ all other sectors).

The remaining 50,000 MT shall be provided on a per region basis depending on the percent of rice land harvested in a given region over the national harvested hectarage. The regional allocation shall be divided equally among qualified FOs within each region. FOs have until April 30, 2006 to open/avail of LC, DA and DP and deposit the required advance duties with LBP. Any unavailed allocation shall be forfeited and be opened/made available to all FOs/all other sectors on a first-come-first-served basis.

7. Any unavailed allocation mentioned above shall be made available to both FOs/all other sectors nationwide. They have until May 31, 2006 to open/avail of the corresponding LC, DA and DP on a first-come-first -served basis.

8. FOs using DA and DP shall be required to pay in advance with the LBP an amount corresponding to 50% of the duties/tariff while all other sectors shall pay in advance with the LBP an amount corresponding to full duties to be paid for the importation. The payment of the partial/full advance duties/tariff shall be the basis of determining the first-come-first-served rule.

9. The volume of rice to be imported for 2006 is initially set at 138,000 MT which shall be part of the country's food security requirement. Any volume which the FOs/all other sectors fail to import out of this allocation, shall be imported by the NFA if still necessary.

10. Interested FOs licensed as importers shall open/avail their LC, DA and DP with the LBP head office and such other LBP branches that may be designated, subject, however, to eligibility requirements that LBP may prescribe.

11. Violators of the 2003, 2004 and 2005 circulars on rice importation under the FAI program are disqualified to participate in the 2006 importation unless payment of penalties has been made.

12. As much as possible, rice to be imported should be fortified with iron micro nutrient in compliance with the Philippine Food Fortification Law under Republic Act 8976.

B. ARRIVAL OF IMPORTATION

1. The imported rice stocks should arrive not later August 15, 2006. All legally imported rice that arrive beyond the prescribed date shall subject the importer to penalty based on the following schedule:

No. of days after deadline	Penalty (% of landed cost)
* 1 - 4 days	– 0.5%
* 5 - 6 days	– 1 %
* 7 - 8 days	– 1.5%
* 9 - 10 days	– 2%
* 11 - 12 days	– 2.5%
* 13 - 15 days	– 3%
* 16 - 60 days	– 30%
* 61 days and beyond	– forfeiture of entire cargo in favor of NFA

The aforementioned penalty may also be effected with the withholding or forfeiture of the corresponding percentage of the imported rice.

2. In case the FO/all other sector availed of the allocation but failed to bring into the country the allocated volume, an amount corresponding to equivalent of 10% of the import value will be forfeited in favor of the NFA as penalty. This amount may be taken from the advance duties said importer paid the LBP/BOC. The corresponding amount shall be credited by BOC to NFA;

3. Rice cargoes must be inspected both at the load port and discharge port by surveyor/s to be appointed/chosen by the importer from a list provided by the NFA. The surveyor's services shall be for the account of supplier and/or importer.

4. The discharge ports for the 2006 importation are the Port of Manila, the Manila International Container Port, the Port of Batangas, the Port of Cebu, the Port of Cagayan de Oro and the Subic Port.

C. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1. Importers must meet/submit/accomplish the following requirements subject, however, to changes, amendments or revisions as NFA, LBP and BOC may hereafter prescribed;

National Food Authority (NFA)

- Must be holders of NFA license as importer. To secure a license as importer, the following are required:

  For entities:

  2 x 2 pictures of the representative
  Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and all amendments thereto
  Recent Secretary's Certificate of a Board Resolution authorizing the representative to sign for and in behalf of the entity who shall be an officer/ shareholder/ member/ employee of the cooperative/corporation/association.
  Certificate of Registration from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)/ Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)/Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR)/Bureau of Rural Workers (BRW)/National Irrigation Administration (NIA).
  Certificate of Good Standing or Certification from their respective registering agencies that said FO is currently operational/active.

  - For SEC registered entities, a copy of the current year Information Sheet duly received by SEC.
  - For Provincial Farmers Action Council (PFAC) members, certification from the PFAC Chairman or his authorized representative that the FO is a bonafide member and is rice-based.
  - For non-PFAC members, certification from local Barangay Chairman or Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO) as to the existence of the farmer group in the locality/area and its being rice-based FO.
  - Income Tax Return for the preceding year with audited financial statements.

  For Individuals:

  - 2 x 2 pictures of the applicant
  - Income Tax Returns of the preceding year
  - Financial statement showing assets and liabilities for the preceding year if applicant's capitalization in the rice business exceeds P100,000.00
  - License Fees
    P 3,000.00 per applicant for rice based FO.
    P 20,000.00 per applicant for all other sectors
  - For FOs found to have violated year 2003, 2004 and 2005 circulars, proof of payment of penalties.
- Advanced information (at least 10 days before the cargo arrives) on the quality, quantity (complete specifications), origin, supplier, price on C & F basis, expected date of arrival, name of carrier/vessel and discharging port of the rice being imported, plus a copy of the sales contract and loadport surveyor's report.

Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)

As required by LBP, below is the list of documents required for importation transactions whether using LC, DA or DP:

- Duly accomplished Import Entry Declaration (IED)
- For importers using the LC as their financial instrument, advance deposit corresponding to the full duties to be paid for the importation.
- Only Manager's or Cashier's checks issued by a reputable commercial/universal bank in Metro Manila or such other areas as may be designated by LBP shall be accepted as payment for LC.
- Original copy of pro-forma invoice signed by the supplier and duly accepted by the buyer, indicating the specification of rice to be imported, term and mode of payment, among others, of the importation.
- Original and photocopy of the NFA license as importer.
- Duly accomplished LC application form.
- Accomplished ITOD signature card of the authorized signatory and/or authorized representative (for importation purposes) duly authenticated by the LBP. (Form Provided)
- Certification that the authorized signatory of the FO/entity or the individual as the case maybe, has read and understood the program guidelines and that he/she voluntarily binds himself/herself to abide by all the rules and regulations regarding the importation particularly the penalty provisions. (Form Provided)
- Sworn attestation, as required by LBP. (Form Provided)
- Execution of Forward Exchange Contract, for peso payment.
- Notarized Application to Purchase Dollars, for US dollars payment.
- Presentation of the original and submission of certified true copy of the Certificate of Registration with the CDA or SEC.
- Presentation of the original and submission of certified true copy of the Articles of Cooperation and By-Laws.
- Original copy of the Board Resolution or notarized Secretary's Certificate stating therein the authorized signatory in the opening of LC and use of other financial instruments (DA,DP).
- Processing fee (non-refundable) of P1,000.00 per application.
- Authority to forfeit in favor of NFA the 10% of the landed cost in case the importer fails to bring into the country the allocated volume to be imported or to provide advance information on rice shipment or to use loadport and disport surveyors and/or the prescribed penalty if rice cargo arrives after prescribed dates. (Form Provided)
- Registration as importer with CIIS as required by BOC, if applicable.
- Audited Financial Statements (when necessary)

Additional Requirements for Using Letter of Credit:

- Duly accomplished Letter of Credit Application Form.
- Manager's Check (and its photo copy) for LC cover, buffer, full duties and other charges
- Execution of Forward Exchange Contract, for Peso payment

Additional Requirements for Using Documents Against Acceptance or Documents Against Payment

- Manager's Check (and its photo copy) for the full duties and bank charges.
- Letter of Intent that the farmers' organization will be importing via DA or DP. (Form Provided)
- Filled-up form of record of goods imported. (Form Provided by LBP)

Bureau of Customs (BOC)

For unloading and release of rice cargo, the following are required:

- Registration as importer with CIIS
- Advanced information (at least 10 days before the cargo arrives on the quality, quantity (complete specifications), origin, supplier, price on C & F basis, expected date of arrival, name of carrier/vessel and discharging port of the rice being imported, plus a copy of the sales contract and loadport surveyor's report.
- For importers that use DA or DP, an NFA clearance that they have provided the needed advance information on their importation.
- NFA License as importer
- VAT or non-Vat certificate of applicant
- TIN Card of the company
- For cooperatives, registration documents with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
- 2 x 2 pictures (4 copies) with official signature of the applicant
- Audited Financial Statements for the past three years, if applicable
- Summary of Importation for the past three years, if applicable
- BOI Certificate of Registration, if applicable
- Income Tax Return of the company, partners, proprietor/owner for the past three years, if applicable
- Affidavit of Assets – Statement of Assets and Liabilities filed with BIR
- Name of retained-in-house broker, if applicable

2. The PFAC shall be provided by the NFA with a list of non-PFAC member applicants. The PFAC shall be given five (5) calendar days to report to the NFA and present proof that the non-PFAC member is disqualified or not eligible to participate in the rice importation.

3. Failure to either submit an accomplished Import Entry Declaration (IED) to LBP or deposit in advance an amount corresponding to the duties to be paid will result in the loss of privilege to import rice while failure to provide the NFA and BOC the required advance information relative to rice imported or use load port and discharge port surveyor/s will subject the importer to 10% penalty of the landed cost of the cargo which may be effected with the withholding of the corresponding percentage of the imported rice.

4. Aside from the penalties mentioned above, the offender shall also be subject to administrative proceedings where the penalty of suspension and/or cancellation of its NFA license shall be imposed.

5. The Business Regulations Department (BRD) in coordination with the Extension Department (EXD) shall undertake information dissemination of the FAI program. It shall publish Memo.Letter Circular/s, Notice/s and/or Rules and Regulations that NFA may issue relative to farmers' importation in a newspaper of general circulation and register the same with the Office of the National Administrative Register of the UP Law Center.

6. The Marketing Operations Department (DMO) shall prepare a consolidated report on the arrival of stocks and LCs/other instruments opened with or coursed through the LBP on a regular basis or as the need arises.

D. REPEALING CLAUSE

All rules and regulations, circulars, directives and/or orders or parts thereof, inconsistent with any of the provisions of these guidelines are hereby repealed, modified and/or amended accordingly.

E. EFFECTIVITY

The guidelines shall take effect upon approval.

APPROVED
(Sgd.) GREGORIO Y. TAN, JR.
Administrator

(PDI – November 22, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARCADIA R. IMPELIDO was extrajudicially settled with SPA on Nov.14, 2005 per Doc#12501, Page#1374, Book#15, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Danilo B. Bañares of Manila.
(PDI-Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 06, 2005)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SILANG WATER DISTRICT
M.H. Del Pilar Cor. E. Montoya Sts., Silang, Cavite

INVITATION TO BID

The government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Federal Republic of Germany through the KREDITANSTALT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU (KfW) to finance the implementation of Provincial Towns Water Supply Programs I and II (PTWSP I & II).

The SILANG WATER DISTRICT (SWD), the executing agency, is inviting interested licensed contractors and joint ventures to submit bids for the implementation of the KfW Well Drilling Project. The Project involves the drilling of two (2) wells in Kaong and Lalaan I, Silang, Cavite with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of P 5,038,800.00.

Interested local contractors should be classified by, and registered with the PCAB for General Engineering with Specialty Classification in Well Drilling Works. For foreign contractors, a special license shall be secured from PCAB and has to be submitted prior to the award of the contract.

The works shall include but ate not limited to the drilling of a 400 m of 100mm diameter pilot holes; reaming of pilot holes to boreholes with diameter of 400 mm; supply and installation of casings / stainless steel screens with diameter of 250 mm; well development by treatment with appropriate mud thinner, surging and bailing, high velocity water jetting and airlift methods; and conduct step drawdown and continuous discharge pumping tests to evaluate well performance and hydraulic characteristics of the aquifer.

Interested contractors may personally obtain Tender Documents at a nominal non-refundable fee of P 4,000.00 not later than December 6, 2005 from The Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), SWD Annex Building, E. Gonzales St., Silang, Cavite, Philippines.

The pre-bid conference and the deadline for submission of bids are scheduled on – December 7, 2005 and December 19, 2005, respectively.

The SWD reserves the right to reject or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received and to award the Contract to the Bidder whose bids, as evaluated by BAC, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ALBERTO L. RESURRECCION
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Nov. 22 & 28, 2005)

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so loved
the world,
that He
gave His
only
begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall
not perish
but have
everlasting
life."

John 3:16

HERMINIO HO FORMOSO LIM

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 8, 2005
in Seattle, WA at the age of 87.

He is survived by his loving wife, **HELEN**; daughters and sons-in-law, **ABBIE** & **BARTOLOME TAN**, **BETA** & **DONALD KATO**, **CHERIE**, **ZENITH** & **KENNETH CHUA**, **LYNNE MAY** & **CHONG LIM KIM**, **JUNE**, **JOJI** & **WALLY TAN JAIPHEN**, **JOYCE** & **HUNTER CHUA**; grandchildren, brothers and sisters. The family requests for his eternal peace.

A memorial Mass will be offered on **November 25, 2005**, **Friday**, at **2:00 p.m.** at **SANTUARIO de SAN ANTONIO**, **CAPILLA de SAN FRANCISCO**, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati.

Refreshments will follow at the Parish Hall, Bay 3.

JESUS M. ARTIAGA

of Des Moines, Iowa, USA

(Born 08 November 1928)

peacefully joined his Creator on 15 November 2005
at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Nella Antona Artiaga**; children **Gigi**, **Jay**, **Bobby**, and **Tony & Angela**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

The funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, 23 November 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the St. Francis of Assissi Parish Church, Sariaya, Quezon. Interment will follow at the Himlayan Memorial Park, Sariaya.

Holy Mass will be celebrated for him on Saturday, 26 November 2005, 2:00 pm at the Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

CHAN GUAN TOMLIN

Peacefully joined her husband
Quirino Tomlin Sr.
and Creator on November 18, 2005
at the age of 93.

Her beloved children Quirino, Jr. (†), Antonio, Quirino II and Lily; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 24, 2005 at 1:05 p.m. at Chinese Cemetery.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Virginia Mariano Gomez	Christ the King Greenmeadows	11/23/05; 11:30 a.m.	Paz Crematory
Adelaida S. Topacio	Chapel A-1, Q.C.	11/22/05; 10:00 a.m.	Eternal Gardens Mem. Park
Minette Hazel L. Sly	Chapel C-12, Q.C.	11/22/05; 8:00 a.m.	Forest Lawn Park

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"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

The Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolacion
invite you to pray to God with us
as we offer our prayers and sacrifices
for the soul of our dear

SISTER DELFINA M. HAGAD, OSA

who passed away on November 20, 2005 at the age of 78.

May she rest in Peace!

FUNERAL MASS WILL BE ON
November 23, 2005 at 8:00 A.M.
at the
LA CONSOLACION CONVENT CHAPEL
273 SANTOLAN ROAD, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
INTERMENT WILL FOLLOW AT THE LA LOMA CEMETERY,
immediately after Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ILOILO STATE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES
Barotac, Nuevo, Iloilo 5007
Tel. / Fax No. (033) 3612413

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE ILOILO STATE COLLEGE FISHERIES (ISCOF)

Announces the opening of the

SEARCH FOR ISCOF PRESIDENT

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ILOILO STATE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES (ISCOF)

1. Filipino citizen;
2. Preferably a B.S. Fishery graduate with an earned doctorate degree;
3. Preferably not more than 60 years old at the time of application;
4. Must have at least five (5) years of relevant managerial and administrative experience; and
5. Has not been convicted by final judgment of any crime.

In addition, the applicants/nominees are required to make full disclosure under oath of all administrative, criminal and civil cases.

Interested applicants for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of formal application composed of:

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae with supporting documents duly certified to include administrative/managerial experiences and competence, academic preparation, research background, awards received, and community/extension services; provided, that these documents must be accompanied by a sworn statement as to the correctness and validity thereof;
2. The applicant's proposed Vision, Mission and Thrust for the Iloilo State College of Fisheries;
3. Neuro-Psychiatric Exam to be accompanied by a duly accredited health institution; and
4. Medical Certificate accomplished by a government physician.

Send application, together with supporting documents, to Mrs. Melahi V. Baylas, Board Secretary V and Head of Secretariat of the Search Committee, Iloilo State College of Fisheries, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo with Tel. No. (033) 3612-413 or to Com. Hadja Luningning M. Umar, CHED Commissioner and Presiding Chairman, ISCOF Board of Trustees, CHED Central Office, 5th Floor, DAP Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City not later than **January 6, 2006.**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Office of the Regional Director
Revenue Region No. 03
Tuguegarao City

2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Name of Project: BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE
Location: BIR, Revenue Region No. 03, Tuguegarao City (Revenue District Offices included)
Approved Budget: P693,000.00
Contract Duration: January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

All interested parties may get the bidding requirements/terms from Ms. Cirila R. Alegre, Head, BAC Secretariat, BIR Regional Office, ATI Bldg., Don Domingo, Tuguegarao City starting November 15, 2005. Submission of the sealed bids will be until December 7, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. The opening and deliberation of the bids will be at 9:00 a.m. on the same day and will be held at the BIR Regional Office.

The criteria to be used by the BIR are the following: a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; b) examination and evaluation of bids, and c) post qualification shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR-BAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids mostly advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 844-3779/844-2883.

APPROVED:
(Sgd.) THELMA S. MILABAO
OIC Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Certified Correct:
(Sgd.) CIRILA R. ALEGRE
Head, BAC Secretariat

(PDI-Nov 15 & 22 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
National Electrification Commission

APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF FRANCHISE TO OPERATE AN ELECTRIC LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF LAOAG AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BACARRA, BADOC, BANGUI, BATAC, NUEVA ERA, PAGUDPUD, PAOAY, PASUGUIN, PIDDIG, PINILI, BURGOS, CURRIMAO, DINGRAS, ESPIRITU, MARCOS, SAN NICOLAS, SARRAT, SOLSONA, VINTAR, ADAMS, DUMALNEG AND CARASI, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE.

NEC CASE NO. 2005-19

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (INEC)
Applicant
x--x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an electric cooperative duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines, requests that its franchise to operate electric light and power system in the City of Laoag and in the Municipalities of Bacarra, Badoc, Bangui, Batac, Nueva Era, Pagudpud, Paoay, Pasuguin, Piddig, Pinili, Burgos, Currimao, Dingras, Espiritu, Marcos, San Nicolas, Sarrat, Solsona, Vintar, Adams, Dumalneg and Carasi, all in the Province of Ilocos Norte, granted under NEC Resolution No. 8, dated August 10, 1977, be renewed for twenty-five (25) years.

This application will be heard by this Commission on December 7, 2005, Wednesday, at 10:00 in the morning at the Training Room of Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC), Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte, at which hearing, Applicant will present evidence of its capabilities, financially, technically and institutionally to operate electric light, heat and power service in the area applied for.

At least ten (10) days prior to date of hearing, Applicant shall publish this Notice of Hearing once in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Applicant shall submit at the hearing proof of compliance with these requirements: Affidavits of the editors or business managers of the newspapers in which this notice of hearing was published, together with complete copies of the issues of the newspapers.

The applicant is also hereby directed to post this Notice of Hearing in the City of Laoag and in the Municipalities of Bacarra, Badoc, Bangui, Batac, Nueva Era, Pagudpud, Paoay, Pasuguin, Piddig, Pinili, Burgos, Currimao, Dingras, Espiritu, Marcos, San Nicolas, Sarrat, Solsona, Vintar, Adams, Dumalneg and Carasi, as well as in INEC headquarters and sub-offices ten (10) days prior to the date of hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition with the Commission at least five (5) days before the date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the Applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any person affected to file his or her opposition on time and appear at the hearing will be construed, as a waiver of his or her rights to be heard and the Commission will proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

Given this 2nd day of November 2005, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

By the Authority of the Commission:
(Sgd.) NOLLIE B. ALAMILLO
Officer-In-Charge, NEC Office

Noted by
(Sgd.) ATTY. JOHN JOSEPH M. MAGTULOY, CPA
Deputy Administrator for Legal Services

(PDI-Nov. 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : NEW TAPPING AND REHABILITATION UNDER TAKEN BY CMD
Location : ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Brief Description : SUPPLY OF BRASS STRAIGHT AND UNION COUPLINGS AND CORPORATION COCK
Approved Budget for the Contract : P840,000.00
Delivery Period : 50 CAL DAYS

Prospective Bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examinations of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 14 to 23, 2005
2. Prebid Conference	November 24, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	December 6, 2005
4. Bid Evaluation	December 13, 2005
5. Post-Qualification	December 20, 2005
6. Notice of Award	December 27, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to the Zamboanga City Water District Cashier.

The Zamboanga City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

(PDI-November 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment, Security Service and Supplies
(Gen. Appropriations Act 2005 & Continuing Appropriation)

1. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, through the General Appropriations Act 2005 and Continuing Appropriations intends to apply the sum of ***Php 28,766,000.00*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment (P 14,704,000.00), Security Service (P 1,000,000.00) and Supplies (P 13,062,000.00).*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ***Supply and Delivery of Hospital Equipment, Security Service and Supplies.*** Delivery of the GOODS required is: ***for supplies 10 days; for equipment 30-60 days and for Security service from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.*** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using nondiscretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITD. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BAC Chairman, Dr. Esperanza P. Galia and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Php 500.00 per category for supplies and Php 1,000.00 for equipment.*** The method of payment will be Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 30, 2005 / 2:00 PM at GCGMH Audio Visual Room.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the GCGMH Audio Visual Room on or before 10:00 A.M. on the scheduled opening of bids per category. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash	One percent (1%)
2. GSIS Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)

8. Bid opening shall be on the following schedules listed below at 10:00 A.M. at GCGMH Audio-Visual Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Date	Category
December 12, 2005	Drugs and Medicine Supplies Miscellaneous Supplies Office Supplies Housekeeping Supplies Engineering Supplies Linen Supplies
December 14, 2005	Medical / Surgical Supplies Laboratory Supplies Security Service
December 19, 2005	Medical Equipment Non-Medical Equipment

9. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital
Dr. Esperanza P. Galia, BAC Chairman
Chief of Clinics Office
Miguel Parras St. Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Tel. No. (038) 411-4868 / (038) 411-4869 / (038) 501-7531 loc. 207
Fax No. (038) 411-4831
E-mail address: gcgmh@globelines.com.ph

(Sgd.) ESPERANZA P. GALIA, MD
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-Nov. 22 & 29, 2005)

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 7680 Series of 2005.

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Be seen and be spotted by the Nokia Snaparazzi at the next Hotspot.

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November 25, 2005 at METROWALK from 7pm to 1am METROWALK

November 26, 2005 at EASTWOOD from 7pm to 1am Eastwood City

November 27, 2005 at GLOBAL CITY from 12nn to 4pm/8pm-12mn

BUSINESS

NSC creditors to lift default declaration

Troubled steel mill able to settle overdue bank debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CREDITOR-BANKS OF National Steel Corp. are expected to lift their default declaration against the steel mill's Indian owners very soon after past due payment obligations were settled.

Industry sources yesterday said NSC was able to make the payment of P250 million due last October and, on top of that, had renewed a P500-million letter of credit to cover future payments.

"The technical default declaration has been cured," the source said.

In a separate interview, Philippine National Bank president Omar Mier said PNB's board had approved the lifting of the default call.

PNB is the biggest creditor of NSC, but Mier said approvals from other creditors would still be needed to formally lift the default call.

A lifting of default declaration means that the NSC will not be subjected to foreclosure proceedingsl, where secured creditors may get to seize NSC assets.

The Iligan-based steel plant is now being operated by Global Steelworks International Inc., which is part of the Ispat group of India.

The creditors earlier struck a landmark asset sale deal with Ispat to avail of the perks offered by the special purpose vehicle law. It was among the single biggest SPV deal in the Philippines since the SPV law was passed in 2002.

Excluding non-bank creditors, the banking system's total exposure to NSC originally stood at about P12 billion.

There were a total of 18 parties represented in the selling consortium, composed of 13 local banks, one foreign bank, one trustee on behalf of long-term commercial paper holders, an investment house and two government agencies.

After the signing of an asset purchase agreement, another sharing agreement was issued by the Indian group to secured creditors. The deal would guarantee that the remaining P12.25 billion indebtedness shall be repaid on installment basis for eight years.

PNB's trust banking group was likewise appointed as facility agent and collateral trustee for the sale of NSC aside from documenting the mortgage trust indenture of the Iligan-based steel plant.

NSC shut down operations in 1999 due to debt problems worth over P16 billion.

The adverse impact of the peso weakening against the dollar was aggravated by the influx of cheap steel imports, which rendered NSC's products less competitive.

Lack of funds sets back central Mindanao dev't

By Michelle V. Remo

COTABATO CITY—INFRASTRUCTURE development plans for this city over the medium term may not be achieved because of the national government's perceived failure to deliver the expected funds.

The plans were supposed to boost sluggish economic activity in this conflict-torn area.

The local office of the Department of Public Works and Highways here said all programmed national road projects slated for 2005 were not accomplished due to budget constraints.

Consequently, the target of paving 75 percent of national roads in the region by 2010 may not be realized, said the DPWH. Only 50 percent of the 1,393-kilometer national road network in Region 12 had been paved.

Region 12 is composed of the provinces of North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Saranggani and Sultan Kudarat, and the cities of Cotabato, Coronadal, Tacurong, Kidapawan and General Santos.

David Padlan, officer in charge of the DPWH's central Mindanao office, told reporters that there were 10 national road projects, covering a total of 15 kilometers, originally set for 2005 and programmed under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP).

Padlan said P150 million was needed to implement the projects. The national government only disbursed P56 million.

"The amount was only enough to fund completion of some bridges and engineering details," he said.

The amount was not even enough to complete a single kilometer out of the planned 15-kilometer road network, Padlan added.

He also said Region 12 was having a difficult time getting official development assistance (ODA) from foreign-agencies. He said the agencies doubted that infrastructure projects in areas of conflict could be completed.

Padlan admitted that there were instances in the past when ongoing infrastructure projects were delayed because of clashes between the military and bandits.

"This place will remain underdeveloped if the funds needed to develop our roads will not be given," Padlan said in an interview. He added the least the national government could do was to implement the Arroyo administration's commitment under the MTPDP.

The projects that were supposed to be implemented in 2005 under the MTPDP were the Maitum Lake Sebu Road, Guiling Banisilan road, General Santos city circumferential road, Cotabato city circumferential road, Maitum-Palimbang-Kalamansig road, Cotabato city-Awang-Upi-Lebak Road, Glan-Jose Abad Santos road, construction of the new 4-lane Quirino bridge, and the General Santos city transportation master plan.

Mayor Datu Muslimin G. Sema of this city said that the central Mindanao region has also been waiting for the release of a $20-million Saudi-government fund for infrastructure development in the region. The fund is supposed to cover the construction of the Cotabato City diversion road, among others.

He said the Saudi government has committed to the funds since 1997, but the national government, through the Department of Budget and Management, has not authorized the acceptance of the loan due to lingering fiscal problems.

But Sema said Cotabato City is about to receive a P19-million grant from the USAID for small infrastructure projects.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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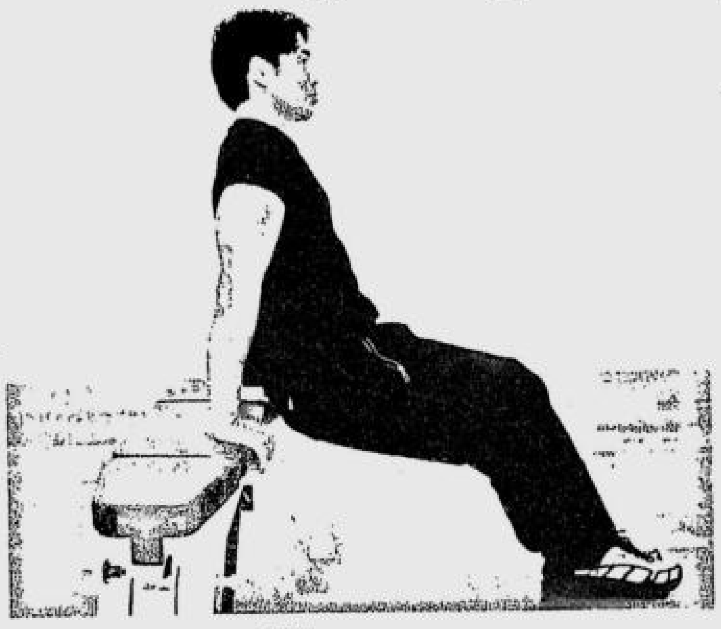
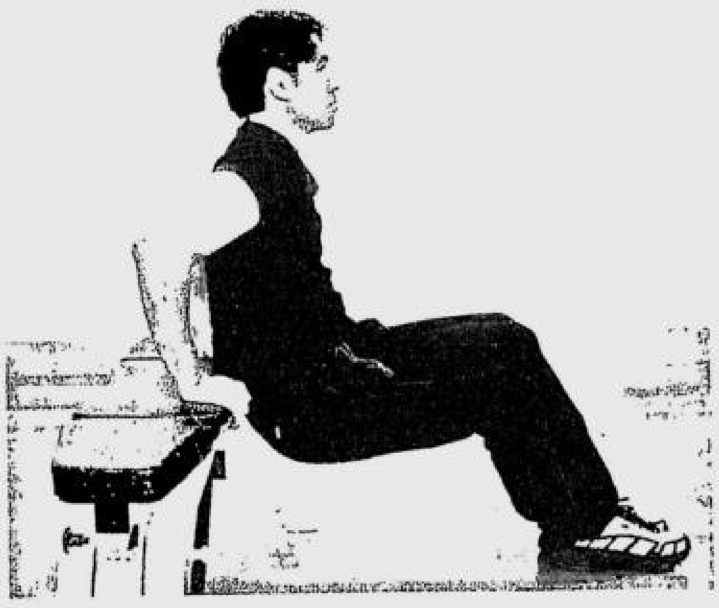
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Triceps dip





STRENGTHENS AND FIRMS the back of the arm.

Equipment

Gym bench or chair.

Exercise technique

1. Place your hands on the edge of a gym bench or chair.
2. Keep your arms close to your body with your knuckles pointing straight ahead.
3. Bend your knees so your thighs and lower legs form slightly more than a 90-degree angle.
4. Bend your elbows and slowly lower your body.
5. Straighten the elbows to raise the body up.

Performance tips

1. Inhale on the way down; exhale as you lift up.
2. Don't allow the elbows to flare out to the sides as you lower and raise the body.
3. Don't allow your chest and ribs to collapse as you lower your body down.
4. Don't use your legs and feet to push your body upward.
5. The farther your body is from the bench, the longer and heavier your body becomes and the harder the triceps have to work. If you need to lighten the load, keep your body close to the bench.
6. Avoid this exercise if you have problems with your shoulder or wrist joints.

Repetitions

Start with as many as you can do. Work up to eight to 12 repetitions.

How to prevent shoulder injuries when lifting weights

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

THE THREE AREAS OF THE BODY THAT ARE most prone to injury during resistance or strength training are the lower back, knee and shoulder joint.

The shoulders are particularly vulnerable because they are designed to have a large range of motion. This increased mobility comes at the price of increased instability. Almost all upper body exercises require the use of the shoulders because so many muscle groups cross over the joint.

Here are guidelines to prevent shoulder injuries when you lift weights:

Rotator cuff. Four small muscles go around the shoulder joint like a cuff and hold your arm firmly in the socket. They are collectively known as the "rotator cuff" muscles. They can easily become irritated and inflamed when they are weak and overused.

If you lift heavy weights, it is a must to strengthen these muscles. Likewise, if you do sports like badminton or tennis which require repetitive overhead movements.

Older people also need rotator cuff strengthening because the muscles atrophy as people age.

The exercises can be done with dumbbells, rubber tubing or special weight machines. For instructions using dumbbells, go to www.tinajuanfitness.info, click on exercises, click on shoulders, then click on External Rotator Cuff with Dumbbells or Internal Rotator Cuff with Dumbbells.

Behind-the-neck. Physical therapist and resistance-training expert Tom Purvis says that behind-the-neck "lat pull-downs" and "shoulder presses" are "shoulder killers" because they are unnatural movements for the shoulder joint. It's safer to do these exercises in front of the body.

Think about it—if you had to place a heavy box onto a high shelf, you would not do it with your arms behind your neck. The same reasoning applies if you had to pull on a rope attached to a heavy weight. You would not do it behind your neck either because you are strongest with your arms in front of you.

Correct alignment. Using a very wide grip on a bench press puts unnecessary strain on the shoulder joint as you lower the barbell. For all bench presses, whether incline, flat or decline, use a grip that is slightly wider than shoulder width and bring your elbows to shoulder level or slightly below.

> Almost all upper-body exercises require the use of the shoulders because so many muscle groups cross over the joint

The traditional dumbbell flye exercise can also be troublesome for the shoulders because the shoulder is in a vulnerable and weakened position (externally rotated) as the dumbbells are lowered. Instead of starting with the palms facing each other, try doing dumbbell flyes with the palms facing the knees.

When doing triceps dips, chest parallel dips and push-ups, watch that you do not lower your body so far down that your elbows are no longer in line with your shoulders.

Do not go beyond shoulder level when doing lateral raises. Avoid upright rows if you can because the exercise forces you to bring your elbows higher than shoulder level aside from compromising your wrists. If you still insist on doing this exercise, then at least limit potential injury by only bringing the elbows to shoulder level.

Lift slowly. Lifting weights with excessive momentum can be a cause of shoulder injuries. The faster you lift the weight, the more the tissues surrounding the shoulder joint have to act as "brakes." This causes unnecessary wear and tear.

Appropriate amount of weight. Some people try to lift weights that are too heavy for them. They do this because they like the challenge or they are trying to impress other people in the gym. Lifting weights that are too heavy for you makes you lose control of the correct execution of the exercise and forces other muscles and connective tissue to compensate for your loss of control.

Small increments. Not only should you increase poundage in small increments but you should also give your muscles and joints enough time to get strong at that weight before proceeding to the next increment.

If you have already injured your shoulders, you need to be extra careful about this. "Too much, too soon" will only lead to more injury.

Stretch. Stretch all the muscles that cross the shoulder joint so you keep the joint flexible. Remember that tight muscles can also be a cause of injury.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

"May sagot na sa biglaang gastos."

Cherry Lopez
Padre de Pamilya

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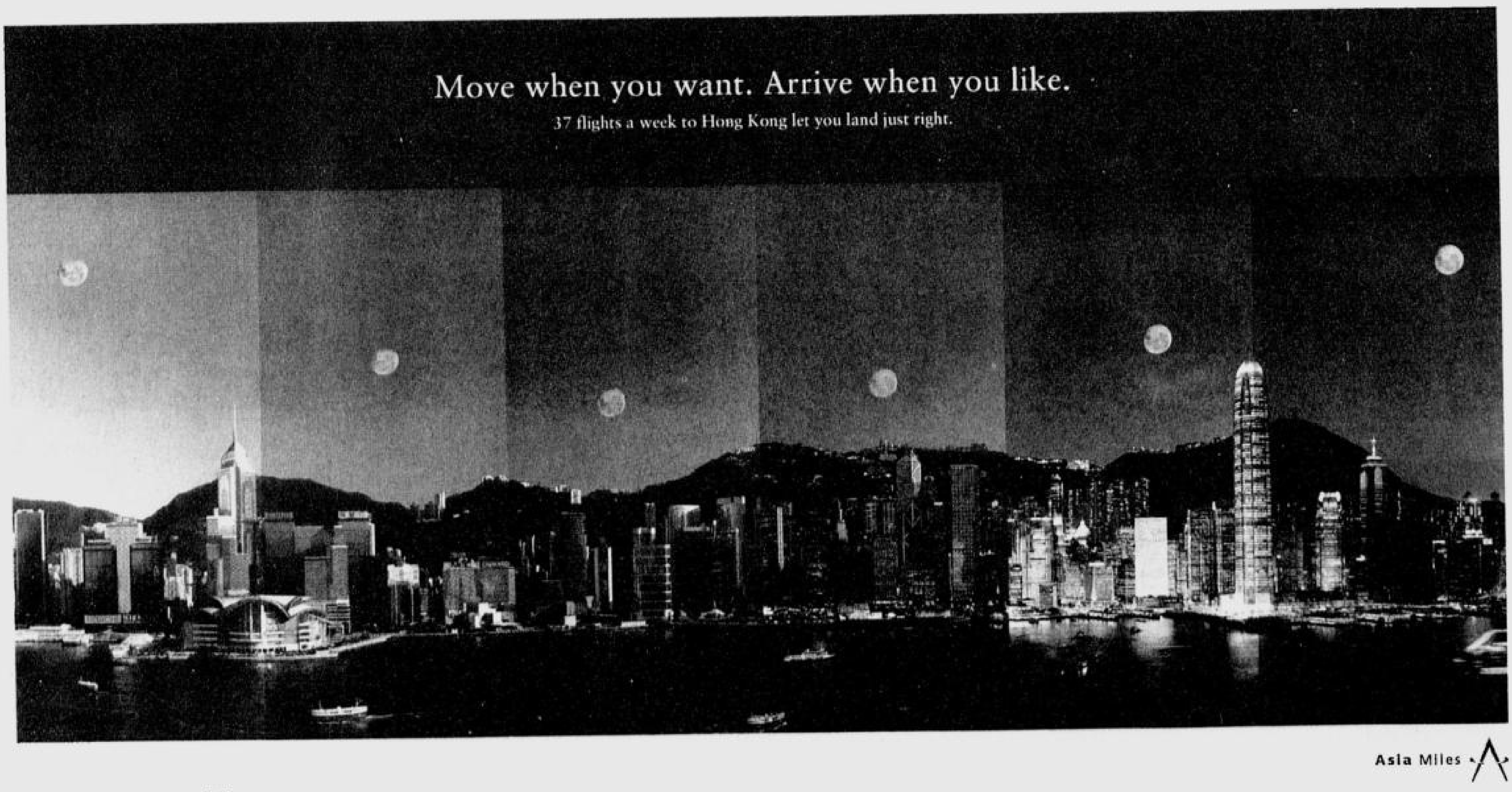

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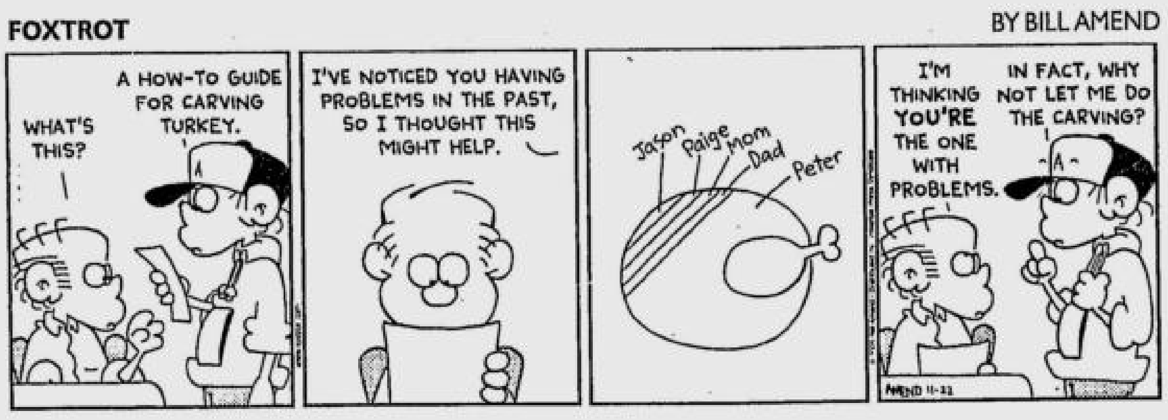
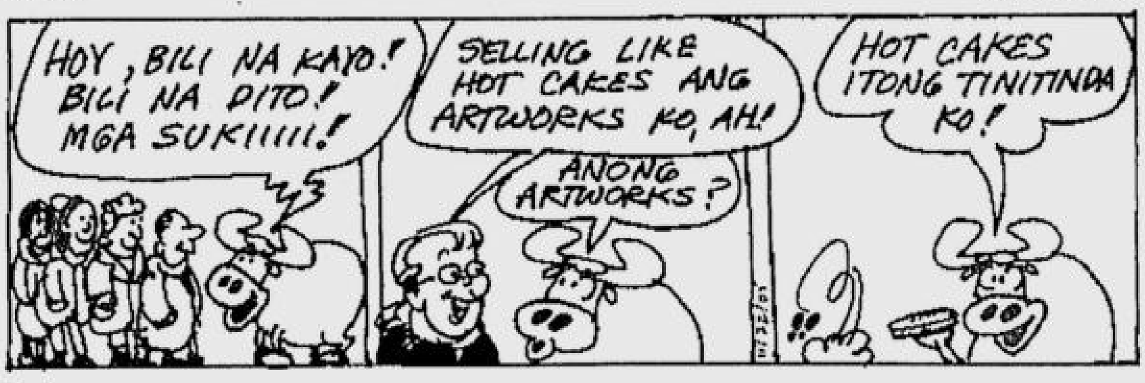
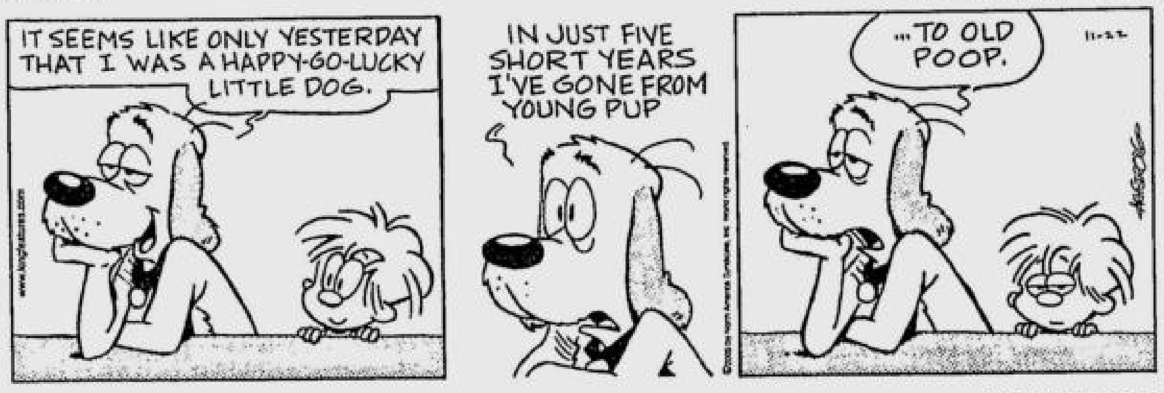
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR CARVING TURKEY.
WHAT'S THIS?
I'VE NOTICED YOU HAVING PROBLEMS IN THE PAST, SO I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HELP.
Jason
Paige
Mom
Dad
Peter
I'M THINKING YOU'RE THE ONE WITH PROBLEMS.
IN FACT, WHY NOT LET ME DO THE CARVING?
AMEND 11-22

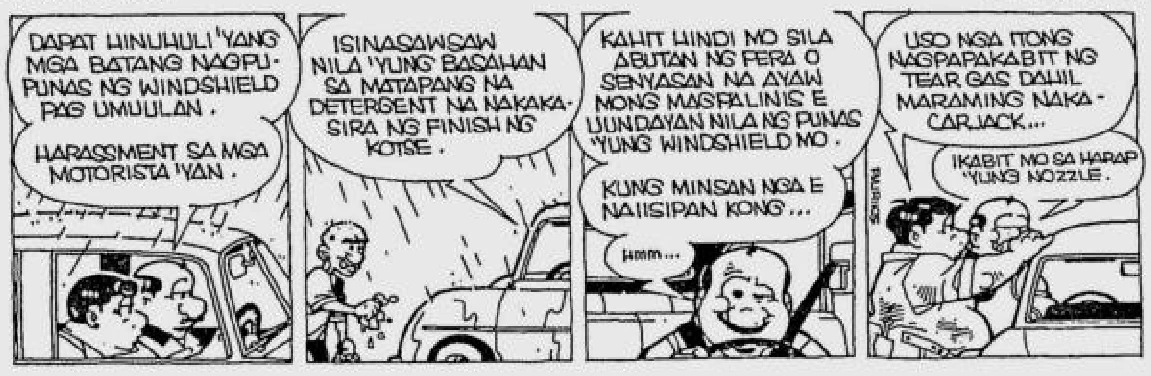
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABREÑA


HOY, BILI NA KAYO! BILI NA DITO! MGA SUKI!!!!!
SELLING LIKE HOT CAKES ANG ARTWORKS KO, AH!
ANONG ARTWORKS?
HOT CAKES ITONG TINITINDA KO!

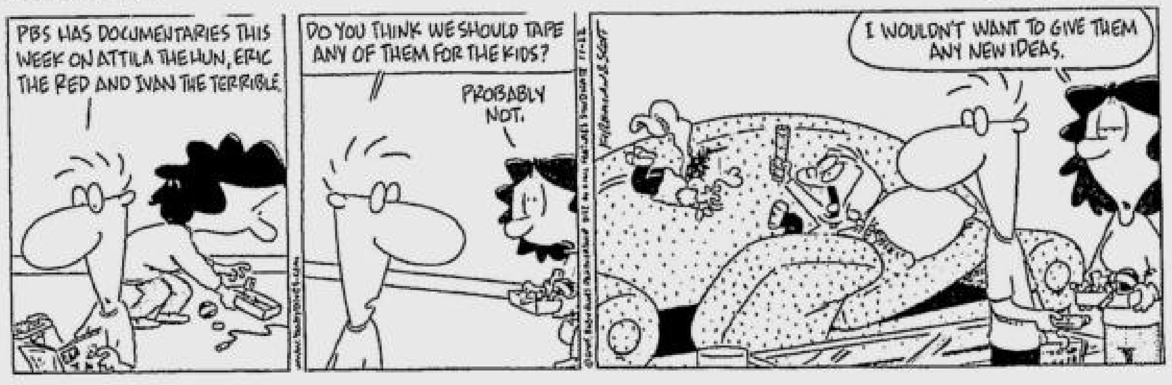
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY THAT I WAS A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY LITTLE DOG.
IN JUST FIVE SHORT YEARS I'VE GONE FROM YOUNG PUP
...TO OLD POOP.
11-22

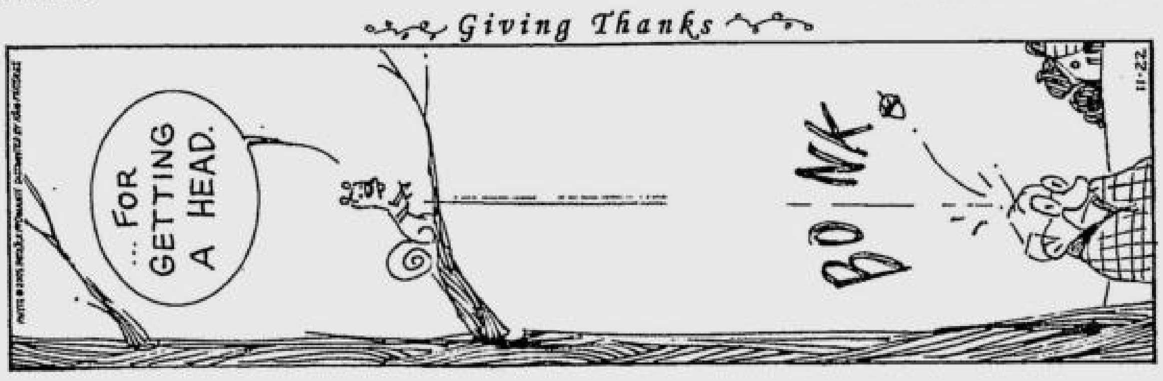
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT HINUHULI 'YANG MGA BATANG NAGPUPUNAS NG WINDSHIELD PAG UMUULAN.
HARASSMENT SA MGA MOTORISTA 'YAN.
ISINASAWSAW NILA 'YUNG BASAHAN SA MATAPANG NA DETERGENT NA NAKAKASIRA NG FINISH NG KOTSE.
KAHIT HINDI MO SILA ABUTAN NG PERA O SENYASAN NA AYAW MONG MAGPALINIS E LUNDAYAN NILA NG PUNAS 'YUNG WINDSHIELD MO.
KUNG MINSAN NGA E NAIISIPAN KONG...
HMM...
USO NGA ITONG NAGPAPAKABIT NG TEAR GAS DAHIL MARAMING NAKA-CARJACK...
IKABIT MO SA HARAP 'YUNG NOZZLE.

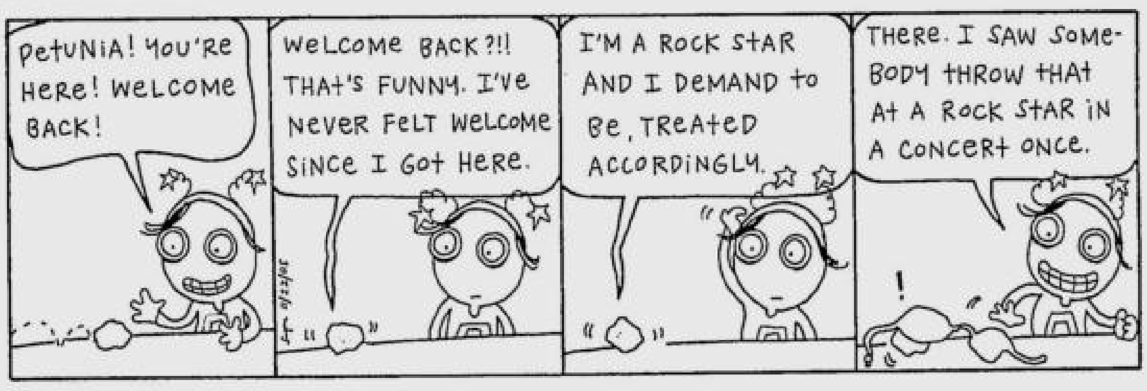
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


PBS HAS DOCUMENTARIES THIS WEEK ON ATTILA THE HUN, ERIC THE RED AND IVAN THE TERRIBLE.
DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD TAPE ANY OF THEM FOR THE KIDS?
PROBABLY NOT.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO GIVE THEM ANY NEW IDEAS.

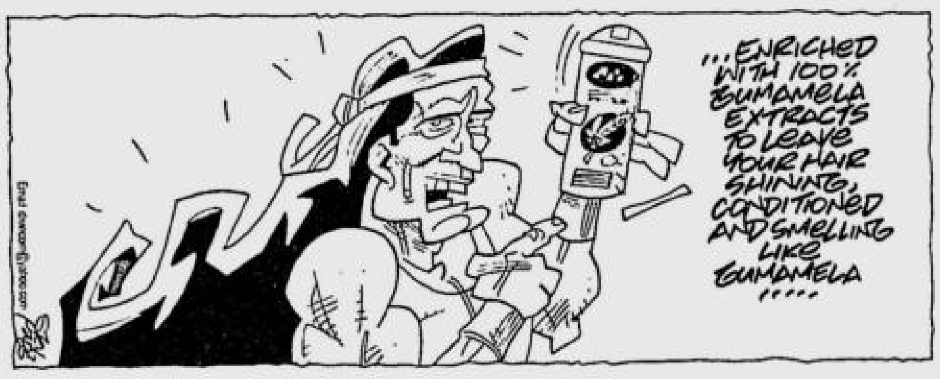
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Giving Thanks
...FOR GETTING A HEAD.
BOINK
11-22

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

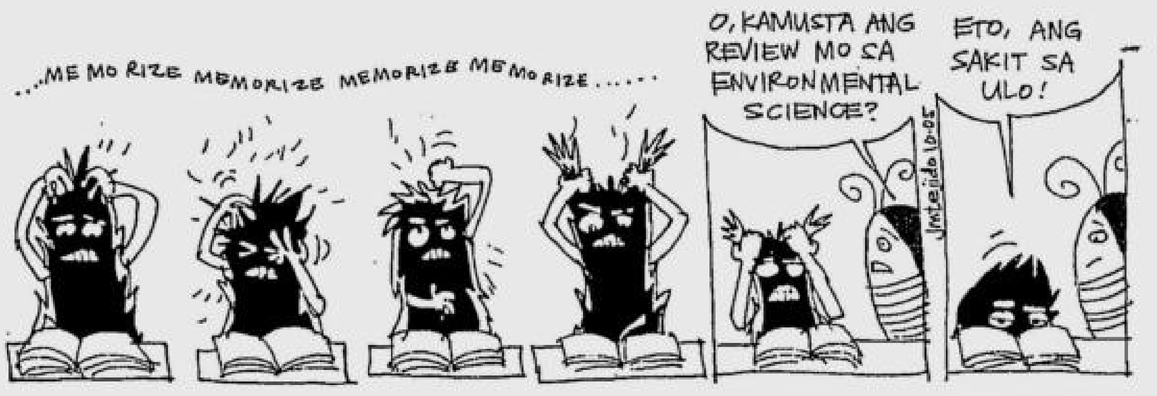

PETUNIA! YOU'RE HERE! WELCOME BACK!
WELCOME BACK?!! THAT'S FUNNY. I'VE NEVER FELT WELCOME SINCE I GOT HERE.
I'M A ROCK STAR AND I DEMAND TO BE, TREATED ACCORDINGLY.
THERE. I SAW SOMEBODY THROW THAT AT A ROCK STAR IN A CONCERT ONCE.
!

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

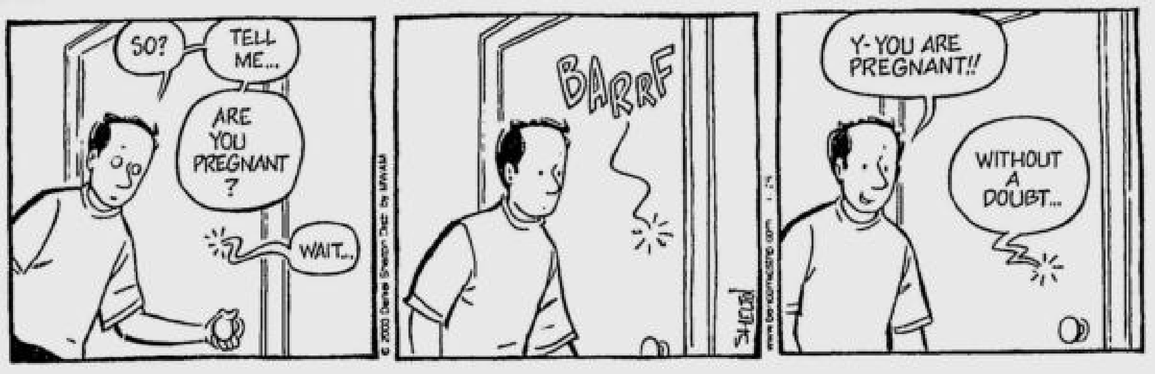

...ENRICHED WITH 100% GUMAMELA EXTRACTS TO LEAVE YOUR HAIR SHINING, CONDITIONED AND SMELLING LIKE GUMAMELA!!!!!

SAMSON, THE TOP ENDORSER OF SHAMPOO FOR MEN

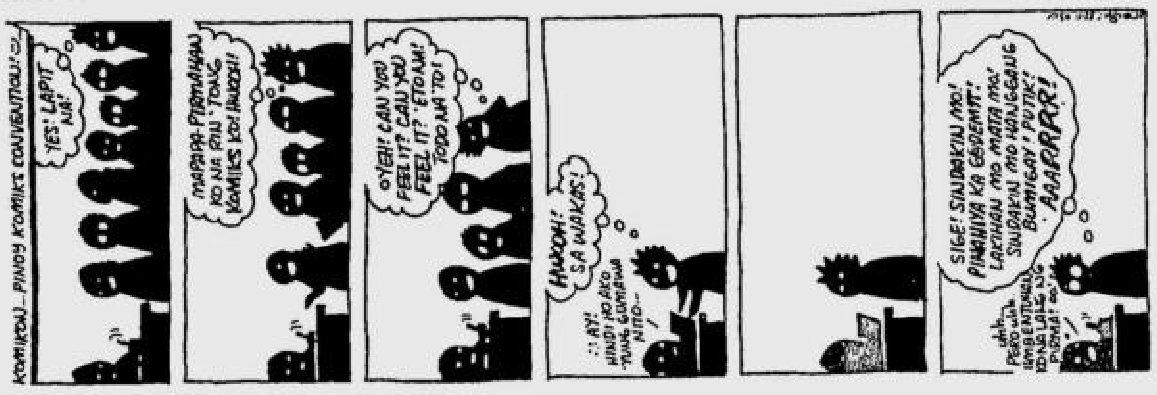
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


...MEMORIZE MEMORIZE MEMORIZE MEMORIZE......
O, KAMUSTA ANG REVIEW MO SA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE?
ETO, ANG SAKIT SA ULO!
Jmtejido 10-05

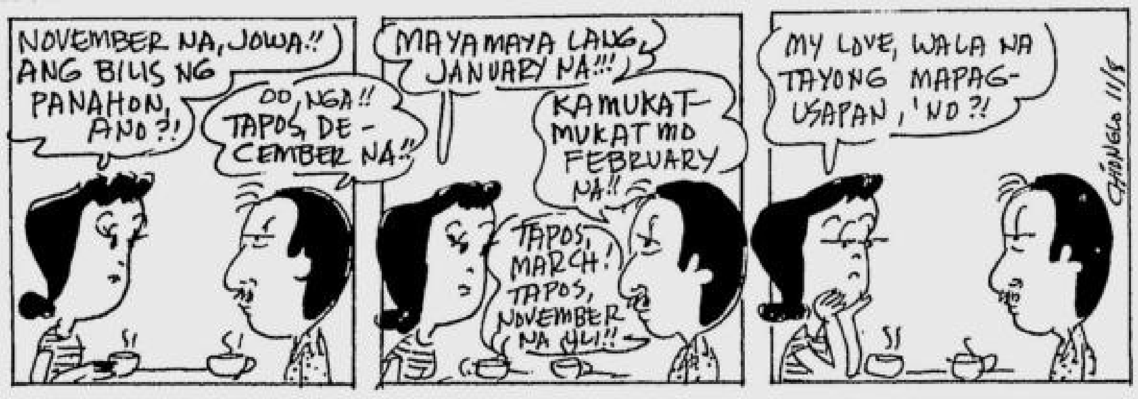
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO?
TELL ME...
ARE YOU PREGNANT?
WAIT...
BARRF
Y-YOU ARE PREGNANT!!
WITHOUT A DOUBT...

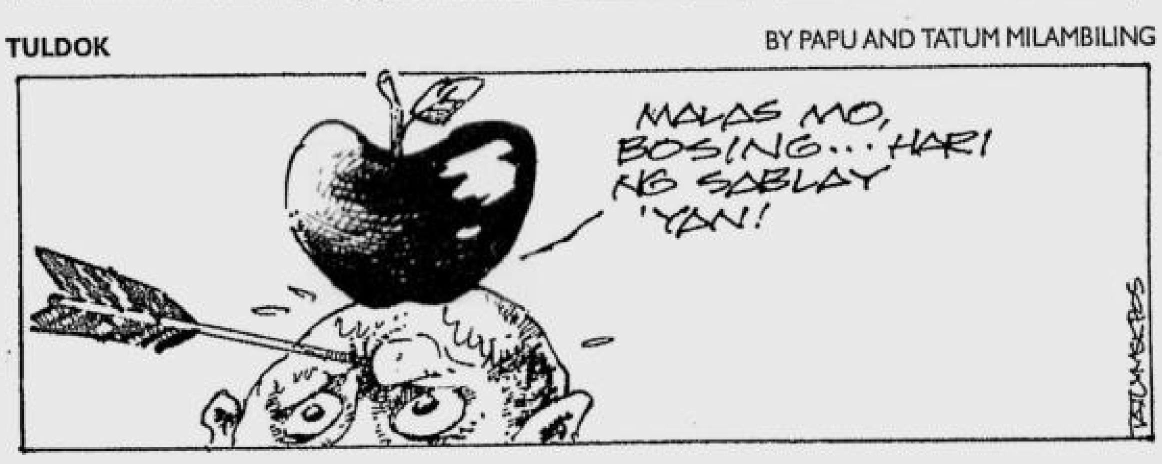
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


KOMIKON... PINOY KOMIKS CONVENTION!
YES! LAPIT NA!
MAPAPA-PIRMAHAN KO NA RIN 'TONG KOMIKS KO! HAAOOH!
OYEH! CAN YOU FEEL IT? CAN YOU FEEL IT? ETO NA! TODO NA 'TO!
HAAOOH! SA WAKAS!
SIGE! SINDAKIN MO! PINAHIYA KA GAGEMIT! LAKIHAN MO MATA MO! SINDAKIN MO HANGGANG BUMIGAY! PUTIK! AAARRRR!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NOVEMBER NA, JOWA!! ANG BILIS NG PANAHON, ANO?!
OO, NGA!! TAPOS, DECEMBER NA!!
MAYAMAYA LANG, JANUARY NA!!!
KAMUKAT-MUKAT MO FEBRUARY NA!!
TAPOS, MARCH! TAPOS, NOVEMBER NA ULI!!
MY LOVE, WALA NA TAYONG MAPAG-USAPAN, 'NO?!
CHIONGLO 11/5

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MALAS MO, BOSING... HARI NG SABLAY 'YAN!

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have the qualities of both Scorpio and Sagittarius—a passionate, intense tenacity combined with a sunny optimism and enthusiasm for travel and education. Beautiful combination! You not only entertain others, you enchant them—hence your popularity. Work hard in the coming year, because this hard work will definitely pay off in 2007.
Birthdate of: Scarlett Johansson, actress; Terry, Gilliam, actor/writer; Jamie Lee Curtis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might have increased dealings with matters related to children. (Possibly something from your past.) In a similar way, you might be dealing with past lovers and old flames as well.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is definitely a good time to address home repairs and fix whatever is broken at home. In the same way, you might have to fix some broken family relationships as well. Tread softly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Suddenly, you have something to say to everyone. (Not that this is extremely unusual.) Siblings, relatives and partners play an important role in your life now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Opportunities to earn money from previous contacts might come along now. Keep an open mind and listen to what is offered. (But not so open that everything falls out!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are back on familiar territory with close partnerships. Some of you are going to give it one more try. Be careful. Go slowly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Relatives and friends are parked on your doorstep. (Stock the fridge.) What can you do? One always has to take family in. (Well, just about always.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Old friends are back in your life once again. Take this opportunity to trade stories, compare notes and reminisce about the bad ol' days. You can learn something new.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good time to finish things and wrap up what is already on your plate. However, don't stretch yourself too thin with new projects as well.

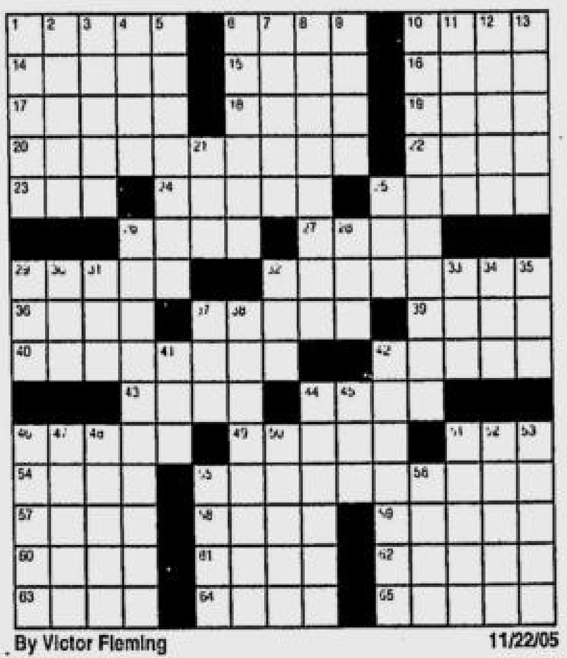
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll enjoy shopping for beautiful things today—whatever you can afford (in particular, things for children). Meanwhile, get used to running into ex-partners and people from your past.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Venus in your sign now makes you particularly charming and diplomatic when dealing with others. Butter melts in your mouth. (You're good.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Old friends are back in your life again. This is not a bad thing. It's important to have history with others. It helps us understand who we are and where we came from.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Past issues with bosses and authority figures are not finished. Once again you feel as if you're bashing your head against a wall. Listen to people; there could be a new spin.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Victor Fleming
Little Rock, AR
11/22/05

ACROSS
1 Oodles
6 Thom of shoe stores
10 Boxer Willard
14 78-card deck
15 Calla lily, e.g.
16 Poker fee
17 Amtrak's express train
18 Social engagement
19 Put on
20 Motor mouth
22 Ship's jail
23 Sure!
24 South Bend eleven
25 Boring bee?
26 Word with hog or block
27 "A Death in the Family" author
29 Thin-shelled nut
32 Like pencil marks
36 Per each
37 Metronome setting
39 Stem-to-stern beam
40 Children's fare
42 Takes care of
43 Webzine
44 Salacious stare
46 Humble
49 Queen of Spain
51 Graduate degs.
54 Butts into
55 "Beware the __, my son!"
57 Actor Morales
58 Assert confidently
59 Salami type
60 Boxer Benvenuti
61 Aloe __
62 All ears
63 Actor Ladd
64 Part of B.A.
65 "Funny Girl" composer

DOWN
1 "End of the Road" star Keach
2 Hidden supply
3 Localities
4 Blockhead
5 Post
6 Spanish capital
7 Grumpy sorts
8 Zither's cousin
9 Western st.
10 Hard, round candy
11 January in Spain
12 Sully
13 Worsted fabric
21 Bullpen stat
25 __ Plaines, IL
26 Informal discussion
28 Fed. financial agcy.
29 Karachi's nat.
30 Starting center?
31 Provincetown catch
32 Big bird Down Under
33 Golfer Hogan
34 Spearheaded
35 Ernie of golf
37 "__ and Sympathy"
38 Stone carver
41 Fr. woman's title
42 Riot queller
44 Most October births
45 WSW opposite
46 Fight site
47 Pesto herb
48 Iowa commune
50 Roeper's co-host
51 Folding cabbage
52 Oak starter
53 Ray
55 Jakarta's island
56 Lash mark

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	B	E	D	■	P	A	R	K	A	■	I	D	E	S
L	E	V	O	■	O	R	I	E	L	■	D	I	R	E
G	R	E	G	G	U	M	B	E	L	■	A	C	N	E
A	N	N	E	A	L	■	S	P	I	N	■	K	E	N
■	■	■	A	N	T	I	■	S	E	A	R	S	■	■
C	H	A	R	G	I	N	G	■	S	P	I	C	E	D
E	E	L	■	S	C	A	R	P	■	S	C	H	M	O
D	A	M	E	■	E	P	E	E	S	■	H	A	I	R
E	V	I	L	S	■	T	Y	P	A	L	■	A	L	I
D	E	C	K	E	D	■	S	P	L	I	T	P	E	A
■	■	H	O	N	E	S	■	Y	E	A	R	■	■	■
L	E	A	■	D	E	N	T	■	S	N	A	I	L	S
O	L	E	G	■	J	O	H	N	M	A	D	D	E	N
I	S	L	E	■	A	R	E	N	A	■	E	L	S	A
N	E	S	T	■	Y	E	M	E	N	■	S	E	E	P

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11/22/05

FIRST Secretary Alain Fortin, fave political writer Ana Marie Pamintuan and Karl Wilson of Agence France Presse

ROBERT de Quelen and daughter Samantha, with knit queen Lulu Tan Gan

MARIE Tanguy, popular Grace Glory Go of Philippine Star and *palangga* Ethel Timbol of Manila Bulletin

MARJORIE Pillon and Patrick Safran of ADB

Departures and openings, diplomatic and otherwise

CBS News' Gabby Tabuñar

ANA Sobrepeña of Metrobank Foundation

MARIA Obrowski

GMA 7'S top hotshot Mike Enriquez

BEAUTIFUL women of substance and style, Amelia Safran and brilliant Supreme Court administrator Zeny Elepaño

Without Batting an Eyelash

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THE NEW AND ALREADY SO POPULAR French Ambassador **Gerard Chesnel** and his *trés charmante* Indonesian wife, Madame **Ning Chesnel**, hosted a super fun farewell reception for outgoing press attaché, well-loved *mon chérie* **Benedicte Meyssan**, at their sprawling well-manicured residence.

Close pals from humanitarian organizations, as well as members of the French community and the media bid adieu to Benedicte at the first large gathering hosted by the newly designated ambassador.

Benedicte, who started her tour of duty in September 2001, will be replaced as press attaché by vivacious blonde **Carolle Lucas**.

Carolle was the press attaché in the French embassy in Malaysia from 1997-2001. Since 1979, she has been a civil servant in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she assumed different responsibilities in the press and human-resource departments and as a member of the minister's entourage.

Since both gals worked together in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs before, Benedicte and Carolle became the closest of pals, dahlings. During the reception, the ambassador even cracked a joke and said, "The two women have a lot of things in common, but they still got a difference. Benedicte has a smart dog, while Carolle has a lovely cat."

The night was made totally memorable with fantastic music and song performances by the magnificent, awesome **Zuniega** brothers, **Sim** and **Greg**, with **Luz Morete-Martinez**.

Au revoir, ma chérie Benedicte, for now, *et bonjour*, Madame Carolle!

THE EMBASSY'S NEW press attaché Carolle Lucas; French ambassador's wife Madame Ning and Ambassador Gerard Chesnel; the honoree, outgoing press attaché, vivacious Benedicte Meyssan and her gorgeous niece Mary

On-the-spot pasta

Manila's premiere Italian restaurant, L'Opera, finally reopened its doors to tons of their waiting patrons at its new eye-catching home at The Fort in Bonifacio, concurrently celebrating its 11th anniversary.

True to form, white-gloved waiters served cocktails and exquisite Italian hors d'oeuvres, meticulously whipped up by its talented executive chef, Señor **Moreno Mattei**, *palanggas*.

In true Italian fashion, take note, dahlings, fresh pasta was prepared on the spot, treating us to a feast of Mushroom Ravioli in Cream Sauce and Seafood Ravioli in Pomodoro Sauce.

For desserts, it was an assortment of calorific, absolutely yummy but lethal eclairs, cream puffs and Italian cake. White wine and champagne flowed freely. We were spoiled with a culinary feast in true Italian fashion, dahlings.

Naturellement, there were top sponsors like Premiere Wine & Spirits, Gallileo Trading, Espa-Fil, Junnels, Zen Asia, Bacchus International, Italfood and Werdenberg International.

Hey, we all have a reason now to rejoice because we once again look forward to the divine flavors of L'Opera's regional Tuscan cuisine, as well as bold, new entrées created by "*dal maestro de cucina*" and co-owner Moreno M.

Together with owners **Paolo Nesi**, **Conrad Acedillo** and **Emil Napa**, L'Opera encores at a bigger and brighter location where we can applaud the authentic flavors and the personalized touch of L'Opera once again, *palanggas*.

But that's not all. Soon, L'Opera will offer a gourmet table which will lend itself to lazy brunch experiences and a cool champagne bar in the evenings. Isn't that so Italian?

Portuguese festival

The hot passion and spirit of today's Portugal opened to an international crowd speaking in different languages that *moi* thought I was at a UN meeting, *palanggas*.

It was actually the 4th Portuguese Festival which high-end chic Rustan's in Makati celebrated. There was a painting exhibition on Portuguese food windows and table settings, all done by well-known Filipino artist **Phyllis Zaballero**, plus top Portuguese products by world-class brands Herdmar, Silampos (cutlery), Aveleda (kitchenware) and Caves Dom Teodosio for the excellent wine, whose representatives all jetted in from Portugal.

Heading the pack of chi-chi invitees were *el simpatico* Portuguese Ambassador **Joao Caetano da Silva**, and well-loved Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.** of the Rustan Group of Companies, natch.

As *moi* circulated, my eagle eyes caught the colorful paintings of Phyllis Z, where she captured perfectly the land, life and cuisine of Portugal, *palanggas*.

Cosmo Manille's chic diplo community was present and all accounted for, dahlings. Two hundred of our town's creamiest of the cream attended, headed by the vivacious Portuguese ambassador's wife, Señora **Ulrike da Silva**, who told me such an amusing story on how her husband would watch her eating habits while he was courting her in Madrid. Now she's fit as a fiddle and is a health junkie like *moi*.

Well, busy as a bee was Air France-KLM's biggest, brilliant asset **Bingo Braganza**, the airlines' top marketing manager who helped entertain the VIP invitees, *palanggas*.

The smashingly successful Portuguese Festival, superbly organized and curated by Galleria Duamila's **Silvana Diaz**, is the result of the close partnership and teamwork of certain parties from both countries: Rustan's, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Air France/KLM, Hotel Inter-Continental and Ralph's Wines & Spirits, locally and, in Portugal, the External Trade Institute, Cultural Institute and Orient Foundations, dahlings.

CO-OWNER Paolo Nesi, Dario Gardini, Imelda Marcos and Jessy Khang

HEY, BEAUTIFUL. Head-turners Monica Albert, Alexi Alunan, Tricia Lopez and Ria Lopez

MOI with Manny Reyes, body-beautiful Cory Quirino, Emil Napa and Kas Jamias

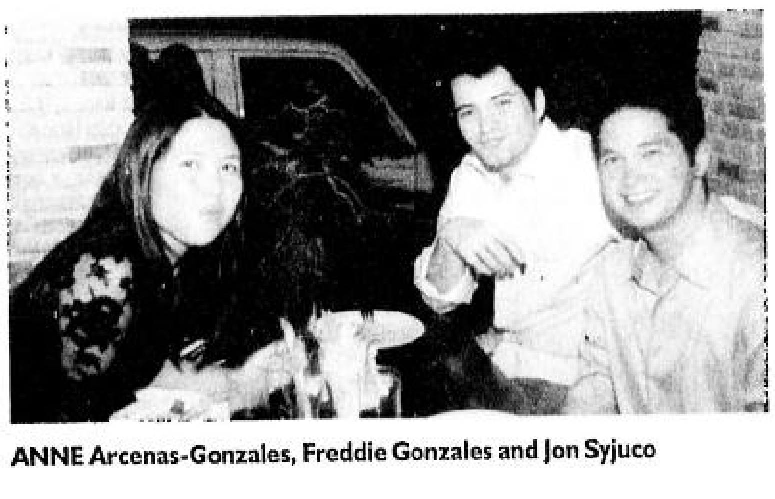
HOTSHOTS at the opening of the successful Portuguese festival: Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Silvana Diaz, artist Phyllis Zaballero, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva, adorable Southern lady Ma. Rosalinda Orosa and Señora Ulrike da Silva

THE ITALIAN CONNECTION. Michael Allen, Roger Pullin and *el grand* chef Moreno Mattei

ABBA NAPA, eye-catching daughter of one of the owners, and architect Anton Mendoza

STEPHEN and Lolita Sy of Focus Global, Donnie Tantoco of Shopwise and Billy Valtos

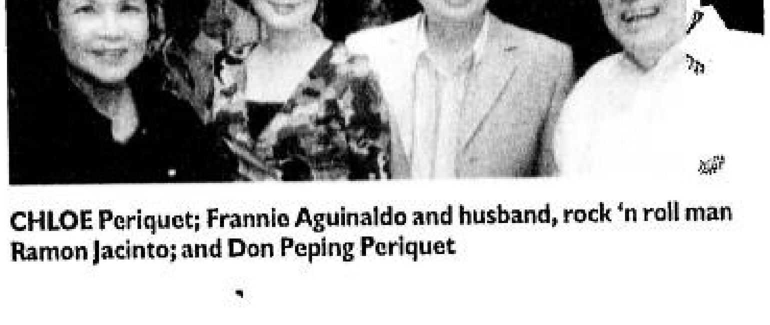
AMBASSADOR Jan de Kok of the European Commission



ANNE Arcenas-Gonzales, Freddie Gonzales and Jon Syjuco

DUTCH CONNECTION. Popular Dutch Ambassador Robert Vornis; former Belgian Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe; Air France/KLM top asset, marketing manager Bingo Braganza; and Tess Zulueta, marketing support-Air France/KLM asset

THE INTERNATIONAL SET. Dr. Luis Camara, deputy head of mission of Portugal, Joao Schumann; chancellor Franklin Silva of Portugal and Fernando Camaño Garcia



CHLOE Periquet; Frannie Aguinaldo and husband, rock 'n roll man Ramon Jacinto; and Don Peping Periquet

Too much self-confidence can be detrimental to your health

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN says you are entitled to self-satisfaction, fulfillment and accomplishment. While there seems nothing wrong with having self-confidence or self-esteem how you build it could be detrimental to your physical and mental health if the boundaries of moderation are breached. Here's how, in lifestyle statements that cover the body, mind and spirit:

Body

"I'm lazy." Nobody ever said you have to remain active 24/7 of your time. But by claiming laziness, you justify not exercising, working, getting off your butt. Studies have shown that couch potatoes do end up as shapeless as potatoes themselves. More and more studies reveal that people who move less are more prone to illness than their more active counterparts.

"I'm starved." The stomach, if you study digestion, is hardly ever empty. Because the entire process takes anywhere from three to five hours, by the time snacks are served, your lunch is in still the final stages of digesting.

So when hunger pangs seize you, don't be dismayed. Eat something raw, like fruits and vegetables. This way, they get to occupy your tummy leaving less room for foods you normally crave for. Giving in to cravings may become a habit which could eventually become a lifestyle.

"I'm tired." When your body speaks to you, listen. Much like a traffic light, this message means a yellow warning. Slow down. Take it easy. Tiredness is only a signal to practice the three R's—relax, rest, recharge.

"I'm sick." Sickness is the stage you reach probably because you ignored the yellow signal. Definitely, you will need to stop all activity and have complete rest. At this time, detox yourself by rehydrating your system with liquids—water, coconut water as well as vegetable and fruit juices.

Mind

"I'm depressed." The rhythms and drives of your mind are connected to the brain, so closely linked that hormonal changes released by the brain directly affect your emotions. Before you declare yourself as depressed, study your pattern. Find out the stressors in your life that are causing it. Do some mind-body relaxation regimens like yoga, walking, swimming. Basically, exercise can stimulate your brain to release endorphins which can put you in a state of ease. Drink calming herbal teas. Have a massage. If all else fails, see a doctor.

Caution: There are some people who take pleasure in their pain and who enjoy misery. While this may only be an unconscious drive on their part, it pays to find a sympathetic ear who is aware of this pitfall.

"I'm a loser." The mind is a highly programmable computer. If constantly bombarded with negative thoughts such as this, it will eventually start believing it by triggering the self to fail in all aspects of living—relationships, career, health, finances and personal outlook.

Spirit

"I'm invincible." To adopt a stance of indestructibility places undue pressure and demands on the psyche. Since the fine line between spirit and mind is unclear and undefined, this statement could be interpreted as a state of mind. Telling yourself that nothing and no one can harm you may make you callous to realities like viruses, germs, bacteria, pollution, malnutrition, stress.

By thinking of invincibility, you may not take precaution nor gear yourself against illness. Just like in the case of a friend, a 50-year-old marathoner who took no supplements and would boast to friends that he never got sick. While he might have had a physically. appealing physique, little did he know that one day he would collapse due to a heart attack. Apparently, his body was deprived of magnesium for so long. He has since recovered and is now living a more balanced lifestyle.

Daily invocation

The art of invoking positive thoughts and feelings is perfected by the heart but borne of the mind. Much like prayer, it seeks to receive blessings with gratitude. Invoke daily something good, whether big or small. And watch the days ahead unfold dramatically. Example: "Every day, blessings come my way."

Love and light!

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Letter from UK re alternate reality

Two total strangers can be 'transported' to each others' houses

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

DR. PETER STEWART, A RETIRED scientist from the aeronautical and space industry in England, wrote me the following letter mainly to thank me for introducing him to the wonders of remote-viewing. I had written about the subject in a chapter of "Intuition at Work," which was published in San Francisco, California, in 1996.

"I hold a Doctor of Science degree, the highest academic level in the UK. I also have a Master of Science degree. I am a physicist being a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and a Fellow of the Institutions of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. In 1985, I won the award as the top engineer in the UK and was invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. I have been a visiting professor at two British Universities.

"I have been a 'dowser' for over 50 years using both 'local' and 'remote' dowsing techniques. I am chair of the Dowsing Research Group of the British Society of dowsers. As an example, I successfully located a crashed aircraft in the sea, at a depth of 200 ft, from my home in Bristol using map dowsing at a distance of 350 miles. In the DRG we are looking into the relationships between extensions of consciousness and information.

Remote viewing

"Back in 1999, I bought a copy of 'Intuition at Work' and read your article on remote-viewing with interest. I decided to try out your techniques and found that, like you, I could 'transport' copies of two total strangers to each others' houses and get them to remote-view the interiors. Since then, I have been developing the technique at lectures, seminars and workshops. After the viewing, I forbid them to speak and they both then fill in a questionnaire on what they have seen. This is then exchanged in silence and marked for accuracy and returned. This procedure ensures no collusion. Only then are they allowed to share their experiences. I get a 60- to 70-percent success rate of over 250 students. All my students have a full sensory experience of the alternate reality and hold meaningful conversations with people they meet.

"When they stand outside the other person's house I now ask them to call out for a copy of the partner to come out and show them around. They do so!

"From your article, it appears that your students only observe? I find that I can get my students to interact with the reality in which they find themselves and lift up duvets, pick up objects, open drawers and look inside, etc. Do you do this?

"Within the last two years, in order to try and find the boundaries of the capability, I have sent a group of dowsers to locate a lost British Mars Probe using Martian coordinates and then remote-view the crash site and describe the physical state of the probe. This was successful.

"It appears that dowsing and remote-viewing are two sides of the same coin. One can remote-dowse for a lost object using a map and obtain its geographical coordinates. But one cannot see it. One can then remote-view on the coordinates previously obtained and view the site.

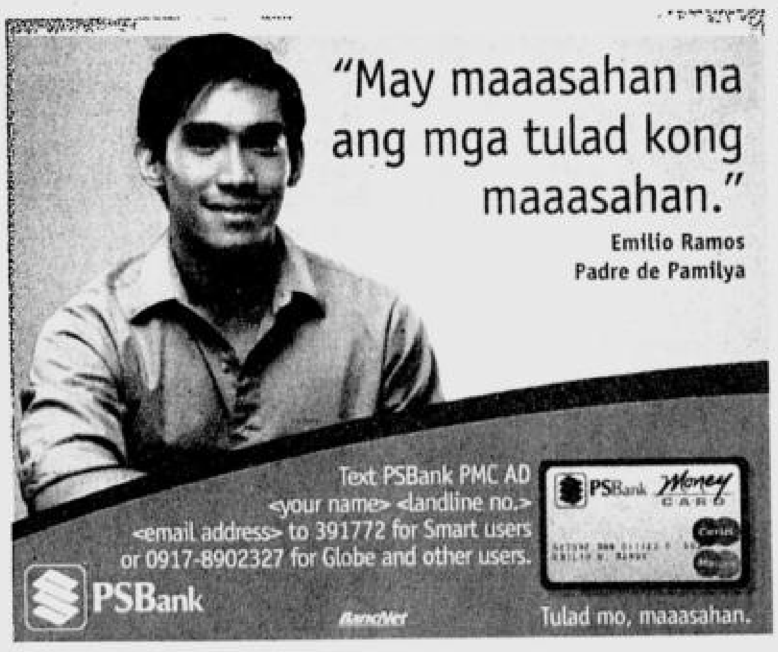
"I have also, on two separate occasions, sent a group of students back to specific locations in time and space to interview individuals to obtain information. The first occasion was to send a group of 10 back to London 1630 to interview John Parkinson, the royal herbalist to Charles I to ask questions for one of his descendants who was writing his biography. This was again successful and one of the students complained it was very 'smelly' and the personal hygiene of John Parkinson "left something to be desired!"

"On the second occasion, I successfully sent a group of eight students back to a country house, Maesllwych Castle, in Wales in 1804 to interview the six inhabitants and question them about a miscarriage of justice where a young woman was unjustly hanged. This was for historical research.

"In all cases, the students have a full sensory experience and believe they were 'physically' present at the location and reality. There are physical interactions between the students and the people they meet, like being given a cup of liquid to drink!

"So, thank you for starting me on this line of research with your article. It was very useful. I am now contracted to write a book, 'The Rediscovery of the Third Eye.' Since 1999, I have run an informal center for the study of extended human consciousness. In my introductory Level 1 course, I successfully teach psychometry, telepathy, dowsing and remote-viewing."

My reply: Thank you for your feedback. I am glad to know you have successfully adopted the techniques of remote-viewing as I teach it here in the Philippines and you have gone several steps further. The answer to your questions is, yes, in our case, my students merely observe and describe what they see. They are not asked to interact or interfere with the place they find themselves in, except on occasions when they encounter a discarnate spirit, in which case they ask why it is there and then help it to ascend in the spirit world. I look forward to reading your book on the Third Eye when it comes out.


"May maaasahan na ang mga tulad kong maaasahan."
Emilio Ramos
Padre de Pamilya

Text PSBank PMC AD <your name> <landline no.> <email address> to 391772 for Smart users or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other users.

PSBank

Tulad mo, maaasahan.

All about skincare and treatment

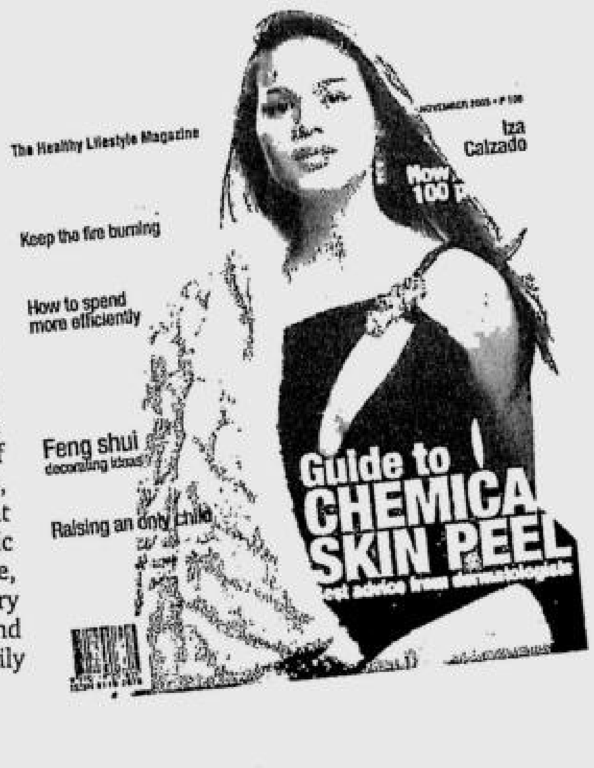
MIRROR, THE HEALTHY Lifestyle Magazine packs its November issue with tips on skincare and information on skin treatment, including a guide to the proper chemical peel that suits your skin type, how it works, which type is best for you, possible complications it may give rise to, how much it costs and more.

It also gives Plus, get pointers on how to maintain soft and supple skin, as well as advice from certified dermatologists on keeping your skin healthy.

Iza Calzado, one of today's most promising actresses, talks about how she won her battle against being overweight and inspires other women by sharing with them how she coped with the many changes in her life and found happiness.

Leading dermatologist Elizabeth Amelia V. Tianco write in her column about how the skin not only serve an aesthetic function but also protects the body, regulates temperature, reserves calorie, among other functions.

Mirror, edited by veteran journalists Monica Feria, is a publication of the Philippine Graphic, Inc., which also puts out the Philippine Graphic Newsweekly Magazine, Cook, the Culinary Lifestyle Magazine and Business Mirror daily broadsheet.


The Healthy Lifestyle Magazine
Iza Calzado
Keep the fire burning
How to spend more efficiently
Feng shui decorating ideas
Raising an only child
Guide to CHEMICA SKIN PEEL

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What are the common type of Diabetes?

Globally, the number of people with Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is expected to rise from the current estimate of 150 million to 220 million in 2010 and 300 million in 2025. This growing pandemic is diagnosed by obtaining fasting plasma glucose · 126mg dl, after 6-8 hours fasting. Any 2 hour postprandial blood sugar 140mg/dl or casual plasma glucose ≥ 200mg/dl plus sypmtoms of excessive thirst, hunger or urination is also diagnostic of diabetes. Among the more common types of diabetes are Type 1 DM, known as juvenile onset DM or insulin-dependent. It usually presents around age of puberty as diabetic ketoacidosis. Majority are immune-mediated characterized by the presence of anti-islet auto antibodies. Type 2 DM, known as maturity onset DM or non-insulin dependent, accounts for 90% of cases. It is thought to occur in genetically predisposed individuals who are exposed to a series of environmental influences that precipitate the onset of clinical disease. Majority of obese Type 2 DM are insulin resistant. Gestational DM is diabetes seen during pregnancy. Diagnosis of gestational DM is important to identify both infant at risk of adverse outcome and woman at risk of subsequent development of diabetes.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our ten-year medical service provider in Laguna, Dr. Arlene C. Gana. Dra. Gana, as she commonly addressed by her patients, is specialize's in IM- Endocrinology and has been in practice for 10 years now. She obtained her medical degree from the University of Sto. Tomas. She took her residency training for Internal Medicine from Makati Medical Center in 1988 and later had her subspecialization training in Endocrinology from the same hospital in 1995. Dra. Gana was the immediate past president of the Philippine Diabetes Association-Batangas Chapter and a member of the Makati Medical Society. MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Mary Mediatrix Medical Center, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 10am to 3pm. St. Frances Cabrini Medical Center, Tuesdays & Saturdays from 9am-12 noon and Calamba Medical Center, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

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Digest offers stories on health and nutrition

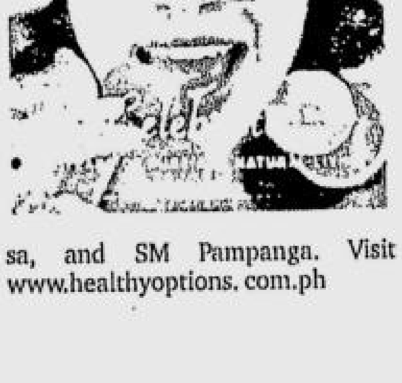
IN THE LATEST NEWS DIGEST OF Healthy Options, the company commemorates the health store's 10th anniversary with the recent inauguration of a modern and ergonomically conceptualized workplace and warehouse facility.

As part of Healthy Options' 10-year celebration of pure, natural living, the news digest offers articles on women's health, men's health nutrition, mind and body, natural beauty, supplement and book review. "Get Pregnant at 40!" gives advise on how to assess the odds of getting pregnant. "Treating Kidney Stones Naturally" informs readers on the kidney stone basics and remedies.

In the Mind and Body section, "Dealing with Loss" takes up the different aspects of loss such as the death of a loved one, miscarriage, end of a marriage or relationship, long-standing debilitating illness and other sorrows.

The Nutrition section talks about how apple juice protects the heart. In the Better Choices, Better Life sidebar, find out more about how eating beans or lentils at least twice a week may reduce a woman's risk of developing breast cancer.

The latest Healthy Options Newsdigest is given free to customers at stores in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Rustan's Supermarket-Makati, Festival Supermall-Alabang, Ayala Center-Cebu, SM City-North Edsa, SM City Manila, Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati; SM Megamall B, Edsa, and SM Pampanga. Visit www.healthyoptions. com.ph



■ WORLD / A10

Bush plotted to bomb Arab TV al-Jazeera, UK paper says citing secret memo

■ NEWS / A2

Int'l groups assail killing of journalists

■ BUSINESS / B1

Executive claims worst over in Smart management crisis

■ NEWS / A2

DOJ Secretary Gonzalez: Subic officials misled on VFA over custody

No MJ on Flight KE 621; NBI, US Embassy clueless

BAKA AYAW PA NYA PA-DEPORT!

By Juliet L. Javellana and Nikko Dizon

MARK JIMENEZ IS COMING home on his own sweet time, according to his friend, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

NO MJ/ A8

PHI IPPINE DAILY
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Wednesday, November 23, 2 ★★ 6 section). 348 P18

website: www.inq7.net

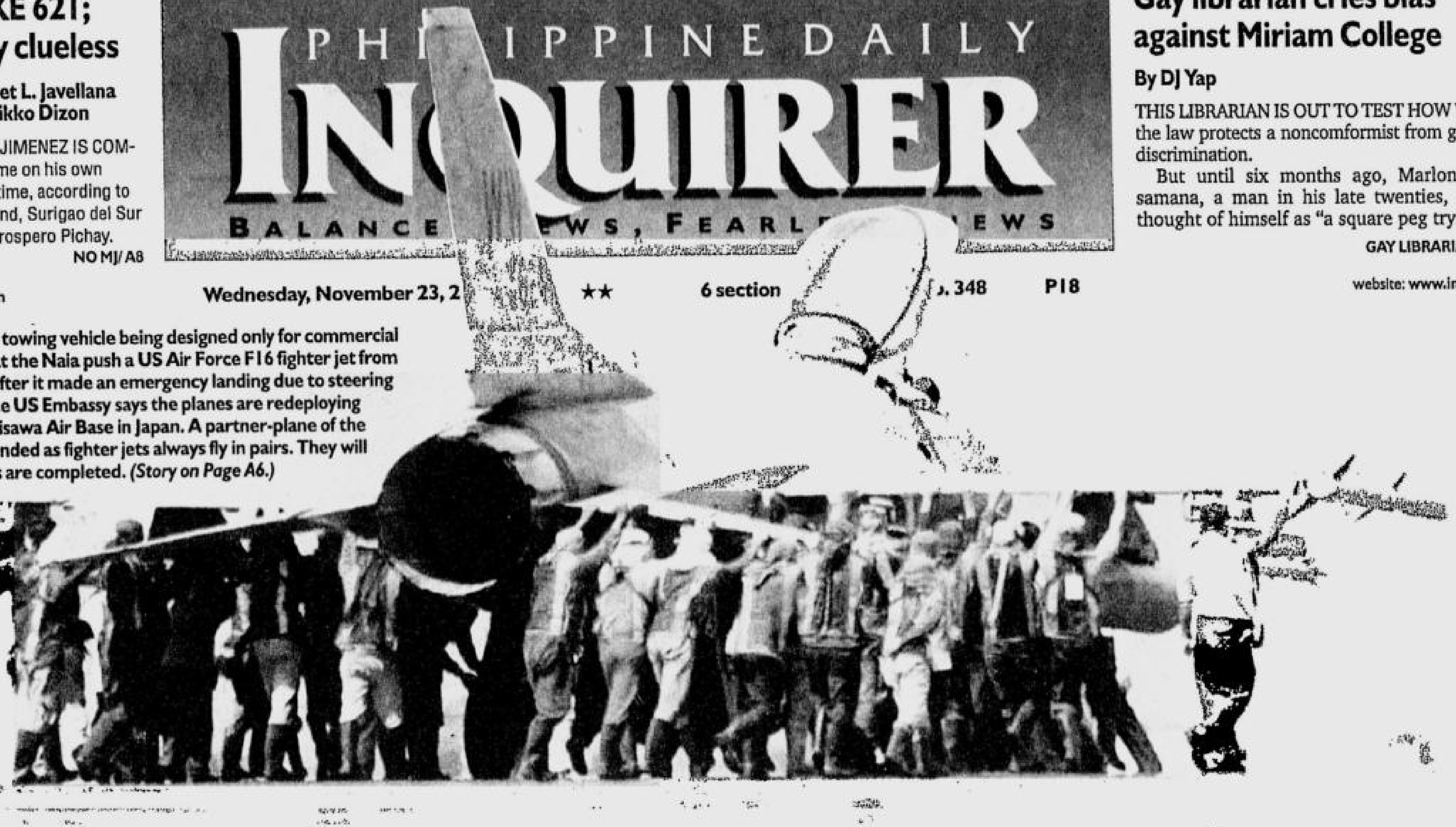
Gay librarian cries bias against Miriam College

By DJ Yap

THIS LIBRARIAN IS OUT TO TEST HOW WELL the law protects a noncomformist from gender discrimination.

But until six months ago, Marlon Lacsamana, a man in his late twenties, never thought of himself as "a square peg trying to

GAY LIBRARIAN/ A8



PEOPLE POWER. Naia's towing vehicle being designed only for commercial planes, 30 grass cutters at the Naia push a US Air Force F16 fighter jet from the runway to a hangar after it made an emergency landing due to steering and brakes problems. The US Embassy says the planes are redeploying from Singapore to the Misawa Air Base in Japan. A partner-plane of the distressed aircraft also landed as fighter jets always fly in pairs. They will remain here until repairs are completed. *(Story on Page A6.)*

ROGER MARGALLO

Garci is back, says wife

Ex-poll exec reportedly slipped into Palawan from Sabah

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

FIVE MONTHS AFTER HE VANISHED INTO THIN air and left the country in a dangerous political crisis, Virgilio Garcillano is back—or so said his wife and two lawmakers yesterday.

No one has confirmed actually seeing him but INQUIRER informants, who asked not to be identified, said the word they had received indicated that the controversial former election commissioner took a kumpit (Moro fast boat) from Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Malaysia, to Puerto Princesa in Palawan on the last leg of his voyage back home.

From Puerto Princesa, Garcillano supposedly took a plane to Cagayan de Oro and then travelled to Marawi by land before going to Bukidnon, where he has a farm and where he is reportedly hiding.

One of the INQUIRER informants said the elusive former official was last seen on Friday in the capitol building in Cotabato City.

"He is in the country. I cannot tell you exactly where ... He is moving around," Garcillano's wife Grace told ANC television network.

"He is healthy," she said.

But versions varied as to when Garcillano supposedly returned.

Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo "Ompong" Plaza told a plenary session of the House of Representatives that Garcillano returned as early as two weeks ago.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno said during a telephone interview with the INQUIRER that three weeks ago, a relative of Garcillano asked him if he wanted to interview the former Comelec official. Moreno did not act on the information as he believed the relative was bragging.

Plaza said Garcillano had been sighted in Mindanao. But the exact

GARCI / A9

PDI PHOTO

GARCILLANO: Is he or isn't he

Citibank fined for trust violations

By Doris C. Dumlao

ACTING ON TWO COMPLAINTS, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has found the Philippine unit of US banking giant Citibank Inc. in violation of local regulations on trust investments.

Citibank was fined a total of P120,000 for four counts of violation of the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB).

The fine was a pittance, but it spoke volumes of the BSP's resolve to punish any erring bank.

In an order dated Sept. 15, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board held the bank "administratively liable, relative to complaints filed by Concepcion Poblador and Shigeko Diploma."

The order was signed by Monetary Board secretary Rowena Martinez.

Citibank was cited for violation of MORB Sections X409.2 and X425.1 on two counts for each complainant.

CITIBANK/ A9

JOAN BONDOC

GIANTS OF THE DAY in Angono, Rizal, are made of bamboo and paper and celebrate the feast day every November of the fishermen's patron, San Clemente. With a person inside every papier mache, the giants parade down the streets to accompany the holy image borne by male devotees.

NPA kills 3 soldiers; GMA orders tougher action

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Job B. Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

COMMUNIST REBELS DEALT THE military a new setback, killing three soldiers who were pursuing them in Quezon province, as President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered tough action against the guerrillas.

Eight other soldiers were wounded in more than three hours of gun battle on Monday as the communist New People's Army rebels withdrew toward the Mt. Banahaw hinterlands, the military said.

The clashes with about 50 New People's Army guerrillas clad in black fatigues occurred in the villages of Anastacia, Cabatan and Lusacan, all in Tiaong.

"The NPA have been engaging my men in a house-to-house encounter. The terrorists have been using the civilians as shield in their escape," Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., commander of the Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar, said in a phone interview.

"It's really difficult for my men because they are under strict orders to adhere to the rules of engagement, to give priority to the safety of the civilians," Cabuay

NPA KILLS/ A8

Gov't must tackle ban on land mines now, says group

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE COMMUNIST NEW PEOPLE's Army ambush using a remote controlled explosive device that killed nine soldiers has revived calls for the enforcement of an international ban on the use of land mines that has reportedly exacted a mounting toll on combatants and civilians in the Philippines.

The Philippine Campaign to Ban Land Mines yesterday said that at least 248 people had either been killed or wounded by land mines and unexploded ordnances from 1999 to mid-2005.

The latest case was the land mine-triggered ambush staged by NPA guerrillas in Calinog town in Iloilo on Sunday, which left nine Army soldiers dead and more than 20 wounded.

Despite the increasing casualties from the indiscriminate use of land mines, the government has yet to address the issue, the PCBL said.

"Since 2000, four House bills and one Senate bill on land mines have been filed but not enacted into law, because they have been considered low priority," lawyer Soliman M. Santos Jr., PCBL coordinator, said in a statement.

The PCBL is a loose advocacy group of mainly peace activists and nongovernment organiza-

GOV'T MUST/ A8

Health care scare: RP has only 700 private hospitals

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY IS NOW LEFT WITH ONLY 700 privately run hospitals, 40 percent of the total five years ago, said Dr. Antonio Chang, president of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP).

As many as 1,000 private hospitals have closed down since 2000 due to the steady departure of doctors and nurses seeking higher pay abroad.

This month alone, 12 hospitals in the Bicol region, Pampanga and other parts of the country shut down along with 11 other medical facilities closures in October and eight others in September, indicating a collapsing local health care system, Chang said.

In Masbate where he runs St. Anthony's Hospital, two 50-bed hospitals have only one doctor each, a far cry from the required ratio of one doctor for every 10 beds, Chang said.

"There is a real crisis," Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago told reporters at the PHAP's national convention at the Manila Hotel yesterday.

Santiago said the hospitals closed down because they were no longer worthwhile business enterprise. "They were already doing the work of government, dispensing health care for free and no one can sustain that under their own resources."

Chang said the problem began two years

HEALTH/ A4

6th restoration for 74-year-old Met

EDSEL J. EMBALSADO

VIEW OF STAGE flanked by art deco design details.

By Jerome Aning

(Second of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS INSIDE THE Metropolitan Theater.

Neglected for almost 10 years, the Met's roof is riddled with holes that let in sunlight, rain, air pollution and insects—all of which have contributed to the theater's deterioration.

The stage is littered with debris. The orchestra pit is a murky pool. The seats are moldy. Venturing inside the Met has become a dangerous exercise, one has to sign a waiver: Enter at your own risk.

6TH RESTORATION/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with light rains while Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/23/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Int'l groups assail killing of journalists

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Marlon Ramos and Bobby Q. Labalan, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*
Luigi A. del Puerto in Manila

LUCENA CITY–TWO INTERNATIONAL GROUPS OF journalists yesterday expressed serious concern for the safety of Philippine journalists following the murders of two Filipino newsmen over a three-day period.

"These recent deaths are further evidence of the incredibly dangerous environment that journalists work within in the Philippines," said Christopher Warren, president of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) headquartered in Brussels. He said he found it "inexcusable and incomprehensible" that the government had allowed violence against journalists to continue.

The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontières) said "the government's efforts to enable reporters to practice their trade without fear seem inadequate." It likewise urged Filipino officials to step up efforts to protect the Philippine media persons.

On Friday, Ricardo "Ding" Uy, a radio announcer for dzRS-AM and president of provincial coordinator of the left wing Bayan Muna, was gunned down in Sorsogon City. On Sunday, Robert Ramos, a tabloid reporter and columnist for weekly Katapat News of Cavite, was shot and killed in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said nine journalists had been killed this year, bringing the total to 72 since the 1986 ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes also said the Arroyo administration was particularly concerned about the slayings of media men, calling them serious crimes.

"Media is the bulwark of democracy. When you attack a member of the media, you're not only attacking a person, you're attacking freedom of the press and freedom of expression," Reyes said.

Yesterday, Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao flew to Laguna to condole with the family of Ramos.

"I'd like to go there personally and interview witnesses, if there are any," the PNP chief said before he left. Among the angles the police are pursuing is Ramos's alleged spat with traders of pirated compact discs and DVDs in town.

Today, Lomibao will be in Sorsogon City to look into the progress of the investigation of the killing of Uy.

"I'm personally taking a hand as I have in the past so we can assure our people that we do not tolerate nor do we condone these kinds of killings," Lomibao said.

Lomibao said of the nine slayings this year, police had "solved" seven cases.

Of the 13 cases last year, 12 have been "solved," officials added.

The police defined the solution of a case as identification of assailants or hired killers and the filing of charges against them – not necessarily the arrest of hitmen and masterminds.

Lomibao said he hoped police would solve the two latest murders and "bring to the bar of justice whoever are the culprits in these heinous crimes."

In Calamba City, police investigators said they were tracking down two men selling pirated compact discs in nearby Cabuyao who had figured a near fist fight with Ramos three days before he was killed.

Supt. Gil Blando Lebin, head of a Task Force formed to investigate the Ramos murder, said one of the two was the gunman while the other was the driver of the motorcycle used in the escape.

He said police had a witness who could help draw up an artist's sketch of the assailants.

Subic execs misled on VFA – Gonzalez

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ said there may have been a procedural error in the turnover to United States custody of the six US soldiers accused of rape in Olongapo City but he believes it may just have been a "misinterpretation" of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

Gonzalez said it was not right for the officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to have let the soldiers go based on a mere verbal request from the US military attaché who invoked a VFA provision stating that the US had the right to place erring servicemen under its care.

"That should have been done by diplomatic process and not through a verbal request, just because you're an official of the embassy," Gonzalez told a Club Intramuros forum yesterday.

But he said the turnover of the suspects appeared to have been caused by a mere misinterpretation of the VFA provision on custody of erring servicemen because the agreement does not state clearly that the request for custody be made in writing.

"I think the proper step should have been for the US Embassy to have requested for custody in writing," he said.

Gonzalez recounted how he attempted to have the soldiers placed under Philippine custody on Nov. 2 upon being informed of the incident by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said he had requested retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, the SBMA intelligence and investigation chief, to keep the US soldiers under his watch while he sent a prosecutor to conduct an inquest.

But when the prosecutor arrived, the US military attaché had already taken custody of the soldiers, Gonzalez said. *Leila B. Salaverria*

GI's appearance today uncertain

By Nikko Dizon and Armand Nocum

THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY YESTERday said it could not confirm "a hundred percent" if the six US Marines accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipino woman would be appearing at the preliminary investigation of the case today at the Olongapo City prosecutor's office.

"It is between the prosecutors and their (the soldiers') lawyers if they need to be there," said Matthew Lussenhop, the embassy spokesperson, in a phone interview.

Lussenhop said the embassy's responsibility under the terms of the Visiting Forces Agreement was to make the soldiers available to Philippine courts.

The embassy has yet to respond to a request from the Department of Foreign Affairs for it to surrender the soldiers to Philippine authorities. *(See related story.)*

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he did not expect anything from today's preliminary investigation as the victim's lawyers were reported seeking a closed-door session and were even considering not to have their client make an appearance at all.

Gonzalez said in jest: "I don't think sensitive issues will come out except the exhibit of the panties."

New hope for undocumented Filipinos

By DJ Yap

THEY MAY LIVE AND BREATHE LIKE any other normal person but legally, they are stateless and don't even exist.

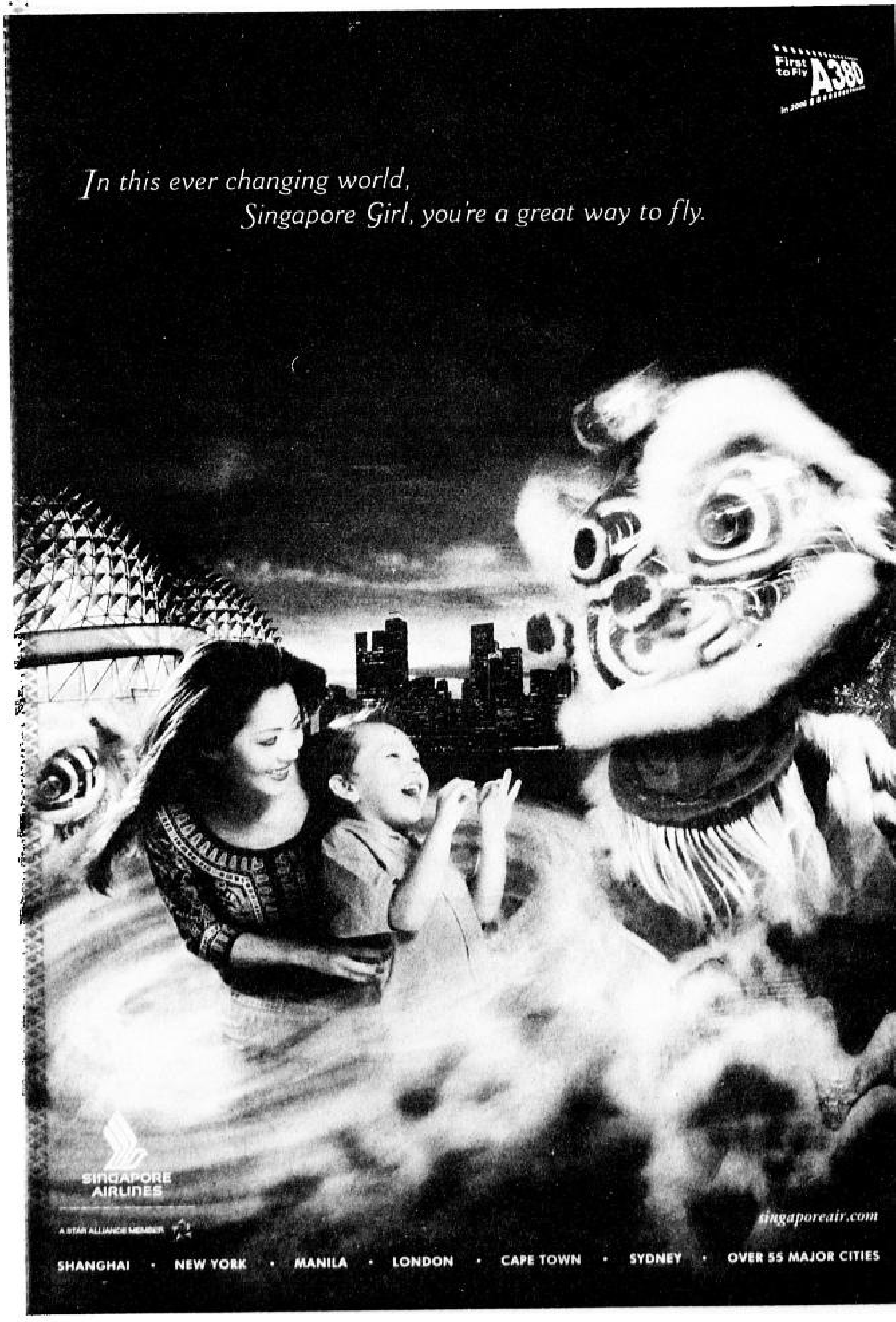
Almost three million Filipino youngsters go through life with no identity and country of their own, according to the National Statistics Office. These children, most of whom are Muslims and members of other ethnic minorities, have no official records of birth and are not recognized by the state as citizens.

Thus, they are not entitled to social security, public education and health care. They cannot ever leave the country, and when they die, as far as the government is concerned, it is as though they had never existed.

But there is hope for them. The Children and Youth Congress on Birth Registration, an NSO-sponsored conference attended by some 100 student leaders, seeks to provide unregistered youths with a name and a nationality.

At a press conference yesterday, the NSO, in cooperation with Plan Philippines, presented the results of a week-long congress that ends today in San Mateo, Rizal.

The youthful delegates vowed to campaign actively for a 100 percent birth registration rate in a country where, according to the NSO, roughly 10 percent of the population remained unregistered and unaccounted for.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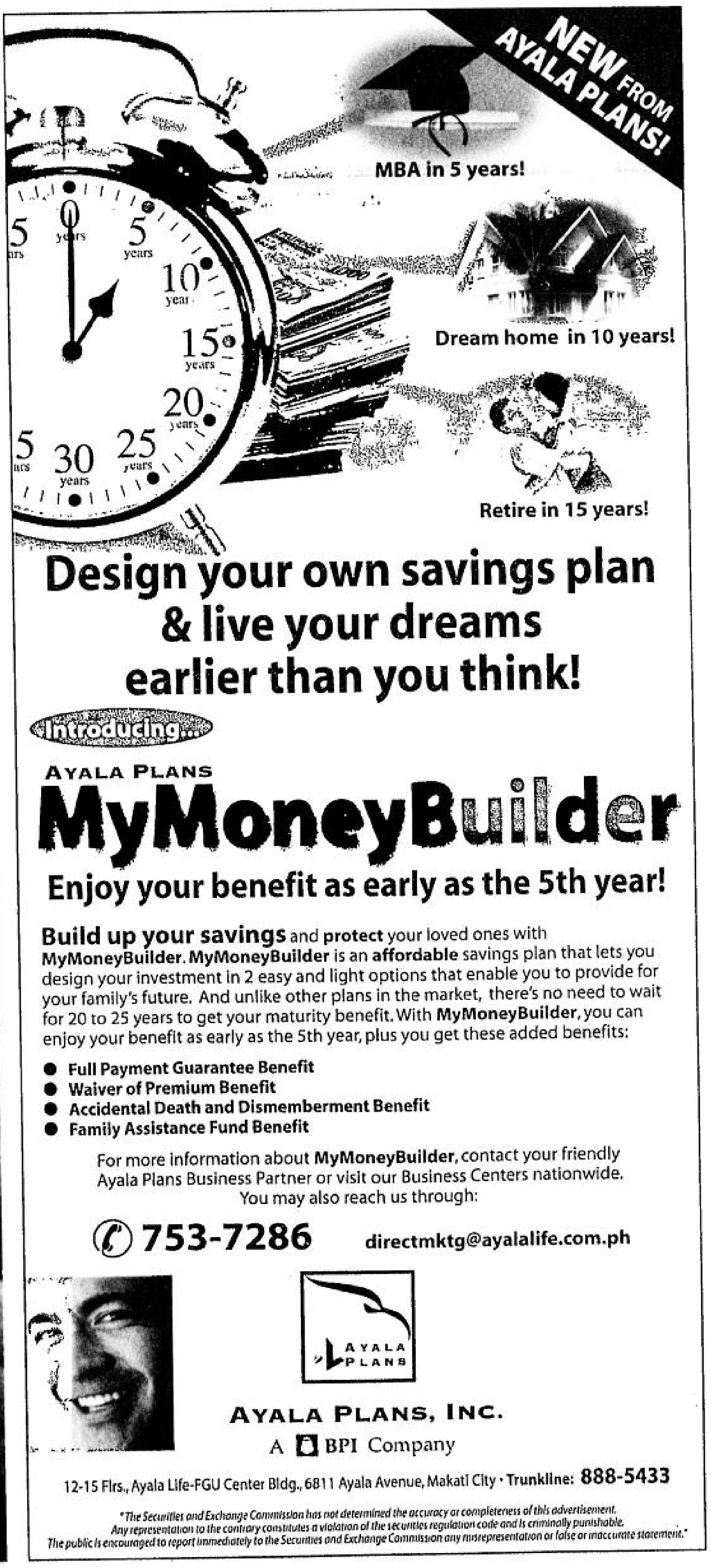

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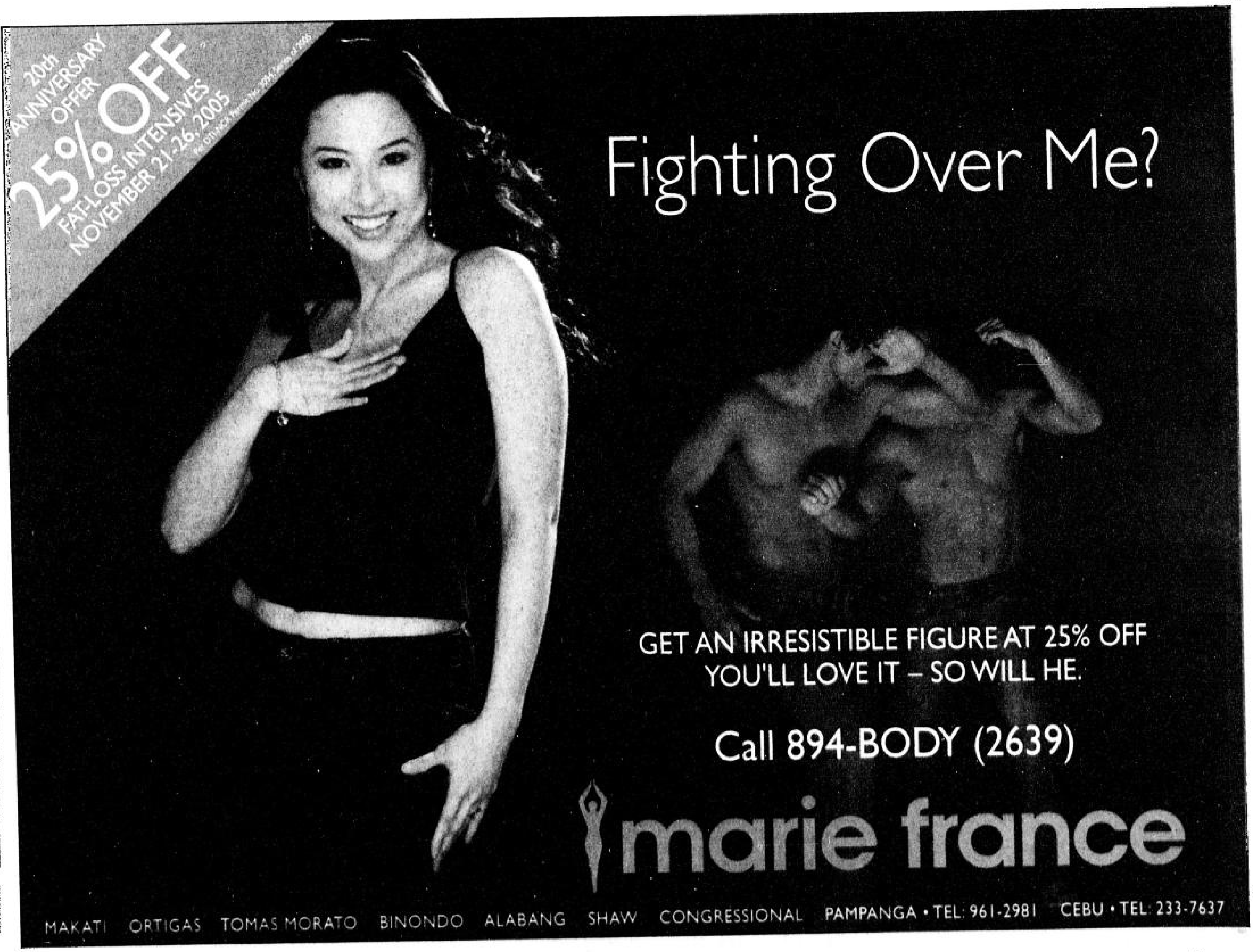
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Sto. Tomas: Brain drain just a perception

By Jerome Aning

REPORTS THAT FILIPINO NURSES and doctors are leaving in droves to the detriment of the country's health care system may be baseless, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

"We need facts. Many of us say that we're suffering from brain drain but it's just a perception [that's] not supported by hard data," she told reporters.

Sto. Tomas proposed that the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Health, Commission on Higher Education, Professional Regulatory Commission and local health workers' associations sit down to discuss the alleged exodus and come up with recommendations.

"We should ask how many nurses do we need locally and how many nurses actually leave. Or whether we should implement a policy of not allowing people to go out despite the fact that the right to migrate is a constitutional right," she said.

She noted that most nurses who go abroad were actually not deployed through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration because they leave on immigrant visas.

The so-called exodus of nurses from the Philippines should not be a concern because those who go abroad are replaced by fresh graduates, according to Sto. Tomas.

"The number of nursing students continue to increase every year so we should not worry. Those who leave would be replenished by new graduates," she said.

The secretary said she could not understand predictions of a shortage of nurses when nursing schools were mushrooming.

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Health care scare: RP ...

From page A1

ago when a huge number of health professionals left the country.

The Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) predicted that the country's health care system would collapse in two years, pointing out that a total of 51,850 nurses had left the country for greener pastures abroad from 2000 to 2003 alone.

This meant that the Philippines had lost close to 13,000 nurses every year during that short period, according to Jossel Ebesate, AHW secretary general and nursing supervisor at the Philippine General Hospital.

More than 5,000 doctors had also left for work abroad as nurses from 2000 to 2004. Many more want to leave. Some 4,000 licensed physicians are now enrolled in nursing schools, Ebesate said.

Scared

"We're scared," Chang told reporters at the PHAP assembly, noting that most of the hospitals that closed down had provided primary and secondary health care to the poor in the countryside.

Chang said health professionals were leaving private hospitals because they could only offer a monthly salary of between P15,000 and P18,000 for medical residents and about P8,000 for nurses.

The compensation is grossly inferior to rates in developed countries, like the United States and Canada, where a nurse could earn about $35 per hour or roughly $5,600 monthly (about P300,000), he said.

Chang lamented that newspaper advertisements of private hospitals seeking doctors and nurses had been ignored on many occasions.

As a result, hospitals are usually left only with married nurses who couldn't afford to leave their children for a job abroad, according to the PHAP president.

Another steady source of part-time nurses are those in their 40s or 50s who had been rejected abroad, he said.

Chang said many private hospitals had been forced to train people as caregivers to fill the vacancies left by doctors, nurses and even midwives. But some of them leave for abroad too after completing the program.

Asked if posting caregivers to do the job of a doctor or a nurse was illegal, he said: "It's illegal but who'll take care of the patients?"

Proposals

In her speech at the PHAP gathering, Santiago agreed to look into proposals to keep private hospitals going.

These include requiring the Department of Health to put up a recruiting center for hospital staff, banning strikes and pickets in all hospitals, and providing private hospitals in rural areas with a 20-percent discount on electric bills.

Santiago agreed with Chang's proposal that a government office settle the unpaid bills of poor patients and senior citizens. Chang lamented that many hospitals were burdened by unsettled promissory notes and post-dated checks.

"Understandably, hospital administrators hesitate to file a case for collection in court because of the additional expense in time and money," she said.

6th restoration for 74-year-old Met ...

From page A1

This is the Met today, abandoned for various reasons ranging from lack of funds to disunity among the agencies responsible for its upkeep namely, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the City of Manila.

The three agencies, however, have set aside their differences and signed a work and action plan (WAP) in June. The President has ordered the release of P50 million to partially fund the restoration of the theater located in Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

Lawyer Rose Beatrix "Trixie" Angeles, NCCA commissioner in charge of national heritage sites, could not say how long the restoration would take. She noted, however, that the tripartite agreement signed by the NCCA, GSIS and City Hall shall be in effect for 25 years, renewable upon the mutual agreement of the parties.

Angeles said the plan was to restore the Met, as much as possible to the 1978 version ordered by former first lady Imelda Marcos.

The commissioner said one just could not ignore the "layers of history" in a structure such as the Met—from 1931, the year it was constructed to 1996, the year it shut down.

"Everything that passes in between is still history and is recorded in the structure. That's the modern concept of restoration—you take into consideration all the interventions that have been made," she told the INQUIRER.

Blueprints destroyed

Angeles said the 1978 restorers led by Otillo Arellano, nephew of the Met's original architect Juan Arellano, "did not do such a bad job" although she faulted them for not leaving enough documentation. Aside from the structure itself, the NCCA restorers only have a "working plan" of the original 1931 building as well as several descriptive articles from old newspapers.

Richard Tuason-Sanchez Bautista, NCCA architect in charge of the Met's restoration, said the 1931 blueprint was destroyed in the war. The plans and other files on the 1978 Met as well as Otillo Arellano himself, perished in separate fires in the 1980s.

"It's very unlikely that we can restore the Met to the 1930s version because of lack of information," Bautista said. "But more or less, what's in the 1930s drawing and the existing structure renovated in 1978, are still the same."

Art Deco

The Met was built in the Art Deco style, which was popular in North America and Europe in the 1930s. Juan Arellano designed a rectangular shaped auditorium, flanked on each side by pavilions and open courtyards.

The theater's cornerstone was laid in 1930, rising from public land leased in 1929 through the efforts of Manila Mayor Tomas Earnshaw to the Metropolitan Theater Company (MTC).

The MTC, composed of eminent Manila residents such as Horace Pon, Antonio Milliam, Leopoldo Khan, Manuel Camus, Enrique Zobel and Rafael Palma, raised P1 million for the project.

Arellano's brother Arcadio added the Philippine-style ornamentation to the structure, giving rise to a hybridized Art Deco style unique in the country.

Amorsolo paintings

The theater's façade had rectangular stained glass windows depicting sunbursts. The stepped façade had "tapestries" of colored tiles—zigzag motifs evoking the batik or the traditional Malay dyed fabric—and bas-reliefs of stylized Philippine flora.

The segmental arched parapet had small Muslim minarets with fountain designs while the colonnade had low-relief medallions. The principal grilled entrances portrayed art deco birds of paradise.

Inside the theater, the lobby or foyer displayed two mural paintings titled "The Dance" and "History of Music" by Fernando Amorsolo. There were modern sculptures of Franceso R. Monti, an Italian sculptor residing in the Philippines.

The Met was inaugurated on Dec. 10, 1931. In its heyday, the theater seated 1,670 people: 846 in the orchestra, 116 in the lodge and 708 in the balcony.

If the restoration succeeds, this new Met will be the sixth reincarnation of the 74-year-old edifice.

The first Met catered to the cultural proclivities of the country's elite in the '30s while the second showcased the wartime flowering of Filipino culture.

Ruined by the Allied Liberation, the third Met went through several transformations—boxing arena, cheap motel, gay bar, basketball court, garage and warehouse and finally home to 50 squatter families.

The fourth Met purported to pave the way for the renaissance of the performing arts in the 1970s under the "New Society" of the Marcos regime. The collapse of the dictatorship gave way to the fifth Met, a dying symbol of its lost glory.

The Met finally closed down, with the final performance in its auditorium in 1996.

New life

People of the 1980s and early 1990s best remember the Met as the setting for the finale of the Sharon Cuneta blockbuster, "Bituing Walang Ningning." The theater was also where actress now Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos aired her weekly variety show.

Whether the Met's latest restoration would be its last remains to be seen.

As Angeles put it: "We can't bring back the Met's old glory but we can usher in a new one."

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 20 issue, a front-page story—"6th GI in Subic rape a mystery"—misstated that Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, is an undersecretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Paredes is a Cabinet undersecretary under the Office of the President. The same error appeared in a Page A4 story—"VFA exec won't stand for Miriam's insults; his punishment: P1 budget"—in the Nov. 19 issue, in the Page A14 editorial—"Foul Play"—in the Nov. 11 issue, in the front-page story— "6 US Marines want out"—in the Nov. 10 issue, and in the front-page story—"Raped girl no sex worker"—in the Nov. 5 issue.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 20 issue, the caption of a front-page photo of participants to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum excluded the names of three leaders in the back row. They are Russian President Vladimir Putin (right), Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (second from right), and Chinese Taipei representative Lin Hsin-i (third from right).

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A2—"MJ expected to arrive today; Gonzalez expects him to talk"—misstated that Mario Crespo is the alias of former Rep. Mark Jimenez. Mario Crespo is the ex-congressman's real name.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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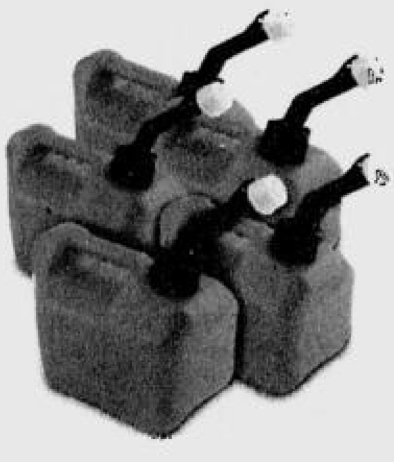

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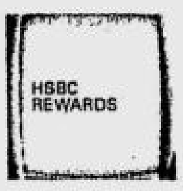

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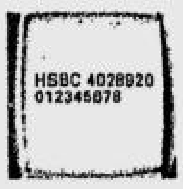

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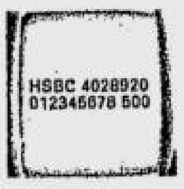

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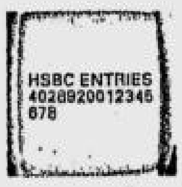

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GMA rating consistent with '04 poll results, House allies say

By Norman Bordadora

SURIGAO DEL SUR REP. PROSPERO Pichay, a staunch defender of President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday said he believes in the accuracy of the Pulse Asia survey that showed almost 60 percent of Filipinos want the President to resign.

Pichay said the survey conducted by Pulse Asia in October was even consistent with the contested results of the 2004 elections, which showed Ms Arroyo won.

"With the number of candidates, President Arroyo didn't get a majority but she still got the most votes. This 58 percent represents those who voted for the other candidates," Pichay said.

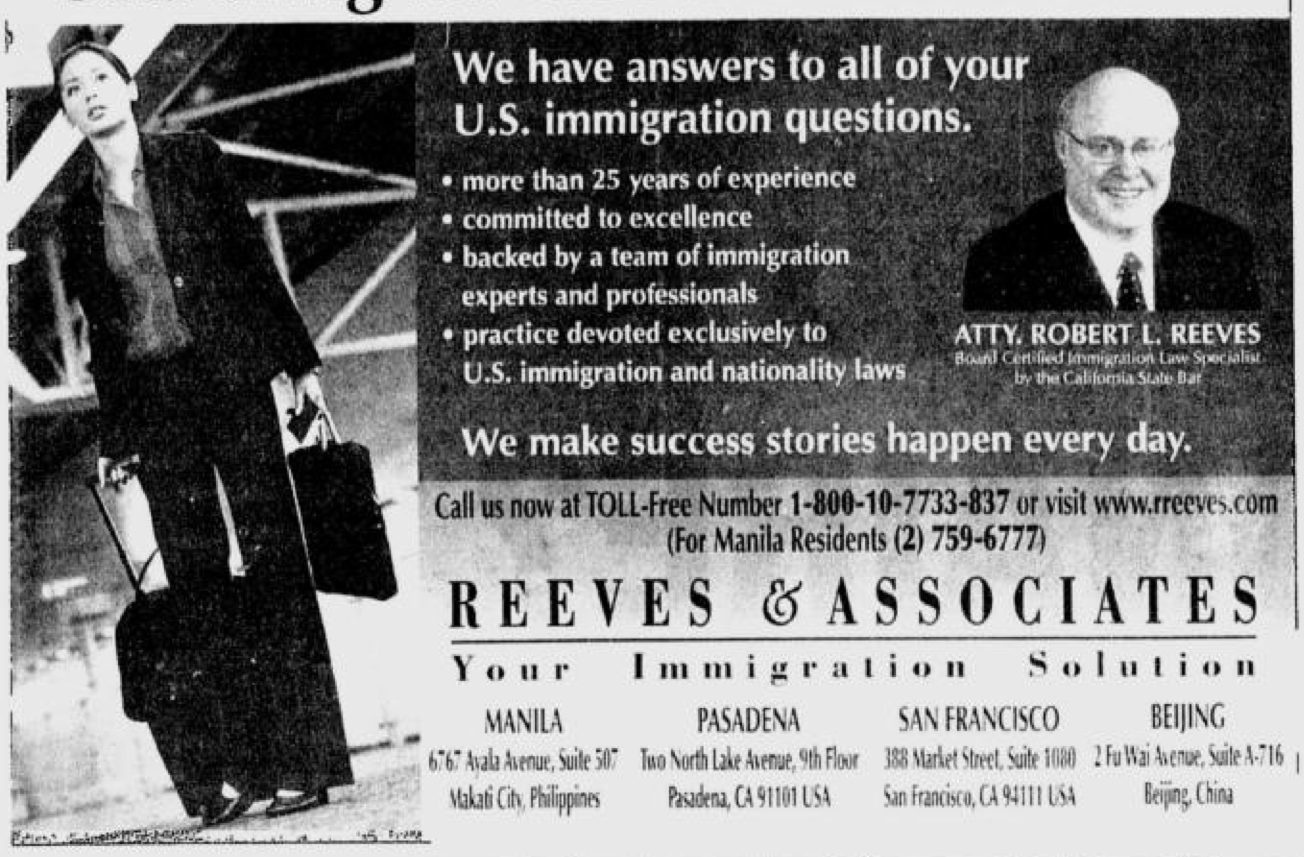
Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval II, another administration stalwart, said the 58 percent who want President Arroyo to quit are a divided lot.

"We would go for the 35 percent who are solid anytime. The 58 percent segment is only bigger in numbers yet it can be considered as a loose aggrupation. They want the President to quit, and they are against a military coup, but they also lack a consensus on who should replace (her)," Sandoval said.

Sandoval said the Pulse Asia question was rather moot, since the President has repeatedly said she doesn't intend to leave office until she finishes her term in 2010.

"The desire of those who want the President out will remain wishful thinking because instead of quitting, the President will continue to hold her ground," Sandoval said.

"The President has more reason to stay now that the reforms she fought for are starting to pull up the economy, proof that she is firmly in control," he added.



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Senators see more delays in '06 budget

By TJ Burgonio

SENATORS EXPECT THE PASsage of the proposed P1.05-trillion budget for 2006 to be further delayed because the House of Representatives is more preoccupied with amending the Constitution than the general appropriations bill.

"The House is prioritizing the Cha-cha (Charter change) and because of that, the approval of the budget this year is dimming," Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the committee on finance, told reporters.

The House is expected to vote in plenary today on a resolution converting Congress into a constituent assembly that would draft proposed changes to the 1987 Constitution.

Villar said he expects the House to transmit the budget measure to the Senate before Congress goes on a holiday break on Dec. 16, a scenario that could lead to the reenactment of the current budget for at least two months next year.

"If that happens, I would expect the budget to be reenacted for two months," he said, after emerging from the Senate committee of the whole deliberation on the budget of the defense department.

Last week, the Senate convened into a committee of the whole to tackle the budget of government departments in a bid to avert prolonged debates when the national budget is brought to the plenary for approval.

Asked why the House is prioritizing Charter change moves over the budget, Villar said: "Frankly, I don't know what's the play of the House here. From what I know, that proposed Constituent Assembly will not be approved if it goes to the Senate."

"Based on my survey of senators, they are lukewarm to a Con-Ass," he added, referring to the favored mode of amending the Constitution.

A senator, who declined to be named, earlier said the proposal would likely be shot down in the upper chamber because some senators were against cutting short their terms.

A vote of a third of the 23-man Senate, or 17 senators, is needed to pass the resolution.

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Palace names 3 UCPB directors

By Alcuin Papa

MALACAÑANG HAS APPOINTED three new directors to the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), a business entity that was acquired using money from the multi-billion-peso coconut levy funds.

The new appointees, which were approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 14, will replace three directors who were placed in the UCPB board on the recommendation of the late Haydee Yorac, the former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

Camilo Sabio, the new PCGG chair, said the three new appointees were Datu Mao K. Andong Jr., Alejandro D. Asis and Oscar Solidar.

Sabio sought to dispel rumors of a "massive revamp" at the UCPB and the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), another business enterprise set up with coco levy funds.

The UCPB is the administrator of the CIIF, which is composed of five companies involved in the milling and refining of coconut oil.

"That is not entirely correct. It is not a complete revamp. Only three people will be affected, and we expect their resignations during the board meeting on Friday," he said.

Andong is the president of the United Methodist Church in Sinsuat Cotabato City and a member of the Coconut Peasants Reform Alliance (Copra). He will replace Jose Ma. Faustino, the executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement and a member of the board of the UCPB.

Asis will take over the directorship of Vic Fabe, a member of the Pambansang Kilusan ng Mga Magsasaka.

Solidar will replace Philippine Peasant Institute executive director Romeo Royandoyan.

Sabio told reporters yesterday that the government expects those to be replaced to immediately resign when the UCPB board meets on Friday.

Faustino, Fabe and Royandoyan were nominated to their board seats by Yorac and are considered staunch advocates for the return of the estimated P154-billion coconut levy funds to the country's coconut farmers.

The Supreme Court in 2001 ruled that the coconut levy funds, collected through a decree imposed by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, were prima facie public funds. The Sandiganbayan antigraft court subsequently declared the coco levy as public funds held by government in trust for the country's coconut farmers.

The Sandiganbayan has yet to rule on a number of cases related to the levy funds involving businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, who was appointed by Marcos as administrator of the levy.

According to the PCGG, Cojuangco had, with his associates, allegedly used levy funds to buy controlling stakes in the UCPB and the San Miguel Corp.

The Cojuangco group also allegedly bought coconut trading firms, coconut oil mills and export firms using coco levy funds.

These acquired assets were not placed in the name of the Philippine Coconut Authority but under holding companies under the CIIF owned by six oil mills. These assets were held by the UCPB, the CIIF administrator.

The CIIF is composed of five companies—Legaspi Oil Co., San Pablo Manufacturing Corp., Cagayan de Oro Oil Co., Southern Luzon Coconut Oil Mill and Granexport Manufacturing Corp.

It also has two marketing corporations, the United Coconut Planters International based in France and the Granex Corp based in San Francisco and New Jersey.

Emergency landing for 2 US jet fighters

TWO US AIR FORCE F-16 FIGHter jets made an emergency landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday morning after one of the planes developed technical problems.

The distressed aircraft, piloted by Capt. Justin Dupuis, had to be pushed by some 30 Miaa grass cutters from the runway to a hangar as the airport authority's towing vehicles were designed only for commercial aircraft, Naia officials said. The plane had lost its steering and brakes, officials said.

The US Embassy said the fighters were redeploying from Singapore to the Misawa Air Base in Japan when one of the planes experienced technical problems and requested permission to land.

It said the US fighter jets always flew in pairs and the two pilots were to remain in the Philippines until repairs were completed.

"We didn't mean to come here," said Capt. Seward Matwick, the pilot of the other jet. "We just had to land right away," he said, adding that the Dupuis had encountered problems with his plane's hydraulics system.

"It just had a malfunction that's why we had to make an emergency landing. This was the nearest airbase," Matwick said.

Christopher Salonga of Ages Aviation, which handles US Embassy flights, said that the US Air Force would most likely be sending its own mechanics fix the jet. Both planes were parked at the Ages hangar. *Nikko Dizon*

6 years after Clean Air Act, Metro air still dirty

By Norman Bordadora

SINCE THE CLEAN Air Act was passed in 1999 and an estimated P200 million in fines collected from violators, the air in Metro Manila remains polluted.

Environment Undersecretary Ramon Paje said that as of July 2005, the level of total suspended particulates in Metro Manila was recorded at 152 micrograms per normal cubic meter, which is still above the national standard of 90 micrograms.

"The air in Metro Manila is still dirty but significantly improving," Paje said.

In 2003 and 2004, the TSP levels were at 170.8 micrograms and 161.4 micrograms, respectively.

To apprehend smoke-belchers, on the road, Paje said there is a need for "radars" which are deemed more effective than actual roadside examinations.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has sought the support of the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) for the "radars" and other programs that promote clean air.

Paje said the implementation of the anti-air pollution law is also hampered by budgetary problems with the multi-million peso collection in penalties yet to be released in its entirety for the upkeep and upgrade of air quality equipment.

Under the Clean Air Act, all fines and penalties collected from the implementation of the law were supposed to be released by the Department of Budget and Management to the Air Quality Management Fund.

"The fund should be turned over to the DENR then to the local government units. The money would be used to support programs for clean air at the LGUs and to buy more or upgrade equipment to improve air quality," Paje said.

Of the P200 million, only P500,000 have been released to the air management fund.

"I just don't know why the DBM has not turned over the fund to us," he added.

Paje said efficient air quality management requires P120 million a year but the national government allocated only P20 million the past year.

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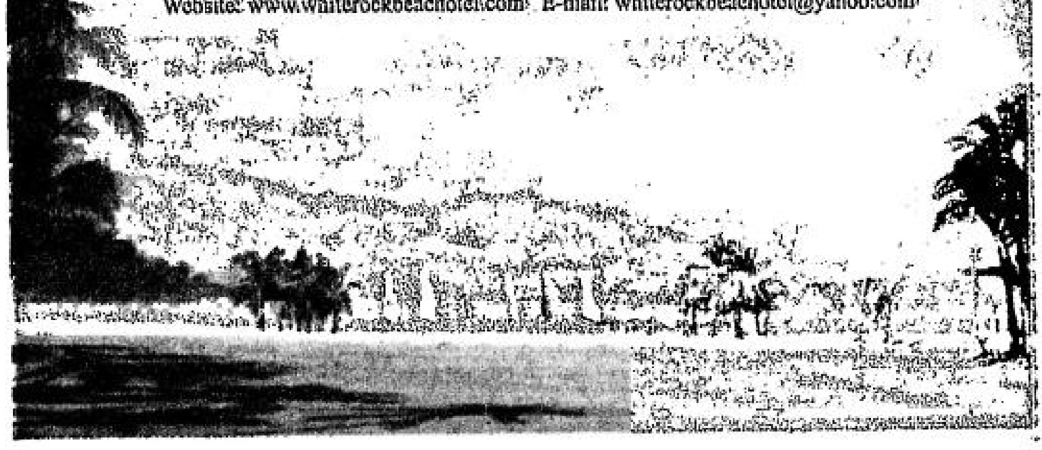

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Gov't must tackle ban on land mines now, says group

From page A1

tions. It is affiliated with the International Campaign to Ban Land Mines, the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Santos noted that the land mine problem in the Philippines was far from alarming compared with the recent situation in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola and Mozambique, where hundreds of thousands had either been killed or maimed, many of them innocent children.

Stop problem now

"However, it exists, no matter how limited, in certain areas of armed conflict in the country. We seek to arrest this problem here before it gets bigger, given the danger posed by global proliferation," he said.

The Communist Party of the Philippines says it strictly prohibits the NPA from using self-detonating explosive devices and allows only command-detonated land mines aimed at specific and legitimate military targets.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines also has declared that it has never used antipersonnel mines in its fight against communist and Moro insurgents.

From newspaper reports on the Calinog ambush, Santos said "it would appear that the NPA unit concerned used land mines here, particularly command-detonated antivehicle mines, in a legitimate manner against legitimate military targets."

However, he also noted that the incident had shown that antivehicle mines could also result in casualties.

Santos said the NPA, through the National Democratic Front, had signed the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in 1998. This contains the provision: "The right not to be subjected to ... the use of land mines."

ON THE JOB. Col. Gregorio Fajardo of Task Force Panay assures residents of Calinog, Iloilo, that the offensive against the NPA will continue. He's shown with explosive devices found in Igbaras, Iloilo, one of the alleged NPA hot spots. ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

No to victim-activated

"The NDF is on record as interpreting this to mean that the NPA is committed not to direct its land mines against civilians but is allowed to direct the same against military targets, including combat troops whether they are walking or riding in any military or military-commandeered vehicle," he said.

Santos clarified that those prohibited were antipersonnel mines, more precisely those which were victim-activated or contact-detonated such as by pressure, weight or tripwire because they did not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

He said the ban did not include command-detonated antipersonnel land mines, which could be controlled for legitimate use against military targets and antivehicle or antitank mines, whether command-detonated or contact-detonated.

However, Santos stressed that the global campaign against land mines, "especially antipersonnel mines, looks at the ban not in terms of favoring one armed force over another but in terms of favoring innocent civilians who actually constitute the bulk of land mine victims globally."

Review ban

He urged the military and the communist rebels to review all the existing and applicable International Humanitarian Law ruling on the proper use and disposition of land mines.

Santos explained that the international law that banned victim-activated antipersonnel mines was not the Geneva Convention but the Ottawa Treaty of 1997 titled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction."

The PCBL called on concerned citizens to join the campaign against all forms of land mines.

"From experience, we cannot simply leave the land mines issue in the hands of the government and the various rebel groups. For the armed protagonists in an internal armed conflict, humanitarian considerations may not be paramount," Santos said. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Minerva Generalao, PDI research*

No MJ on Flight KE 621

From page A1

The ex-jailbird was expected back from the United States yesterday, but Pichay yesterday said he was probably still staying with family members in Florida.

"He's resting, sleeping, enjoying his time [out of prison]," Pichay said of the controversial former representative of Manila.

Jimenez (real name Mario Crespo) has just completed a 20-month jail sentence for making illegal campaign contributions and committing tax fraud in the United States.

Along with other lawmakers, Pichay had earlier planned to meet Jimenez at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. He returned from his province just to be able to welcome his friend home.

But on Monday evening, Jimenez's son Marcel Crespo phoned to relay the message that his father was not coming home yesterday as scheduled.

According to Pichay, Jimenez's continued stay in the United States must have the approval of the US government.

"He has already served his sentence, so he cannot be compelled to leave the country because I think he is an immigrant," Pichay said.

Pichay, a staunch supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo, also said he did not see Jimenez eventually becoming a thorn on the administration's side when he returns.

Deportation

Jimenez was to have been deported back to the Philippines by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

"We will make a report that the deportee didn't arrive and submit it to the [US] Embassy for its information," Angelito Magno, executive officer of the National Bureau of Investigation office at the Naia, told reporters after it was confirmed that Jimenez was not on the Korean Airlines Flight KE 621 that landed at 10:50 a.m.

In line with procedure, Magno was to have met Jimenez to photograph him and take his fingerprints.

Magno showed reporters a copy of the notice of Jimenez's deportation, which was faxed by the US Embassy to the NBI on Nov. 2.

The notice—signed by Kevin Peters of the DHS in the US Embassy—said Jimenez was leaving the United States on Nov. 21 and was expected to arrive in Manila at 10:55 a.m. yesterday.

NBI Interpol Division chief Ricardo Diaz said the DHS was to bring Jimenez from his cell in a federal facility in Pennsylvania straight to DL Flight 7928 departing Nov. 21, 12:50 a.m. (New York time).

The deportation notice said Jimenez would have no US escorts. But Diaz said the DHS would ensure that Jimenez was complying with the deportation by arranging his travel and putting him on board the plane.

Surprised

To make sure Jimenez would not disappear in Seoul, Korea, where his plane had a stopover, Diaz said the DHS had coordinated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to check that he was on board for the final leg to Manila.

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop sounded surprised when told over the phone that Jimenez had not arrived.

"He didn't? I have to look into it. Maybe he changed his travel plans," Lussenhop said.

Asked to comment on reports that Jimenez remained behind bars and would actually be released only next month, Lussenhop said: "We are looking into this now, but [we] have no information to announce at this time."

Ferdinand Sampol, head supervisor of the Bureau of Immigration at the Naia, told the INQUIRER that there were no records of Jimenez's arrival in the country yesterday.

The NBI's Diaz said by phone: "We have no information regarding his present status and why he did not arrive in the country yesterday as scheduled."

He said even Peters had no information regarding Jimenez.

"Only officials based in the US would know what really happened," Diaz said, adding that at any rate, the NBI would play no role in Jimenez's arrival because the latter was now "a free man."

Computer business

Jimenez had a computer business in Latin America before getting into trouble with his campaign contributions to the US Democratic Party. He was indicted in 1998.

He returned to the Philippines and became close to President Joseph Estrada, who appointed him adviser on Latin American Affairs.

In 2001, he made a successful run for the sixth congressional district of Manila, but his case caught up with him.

Before he was eventually extradited, Jimenez rocked the Arroyo administration with corruption charges in 2002.

He alleged that then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez had extorted $2 million for the approval of a power project of the Argentine firm Impsa, and that P8 million of the amount went to the Lualhati Foundation of the President and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

'Free as a lark'

Another Jimenez close friend, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER that the ex-lawmaker had asked for a postponement of his return to the country.

"He's free as a lark," the friend said, adding that his nonarrival did not mean he was in trouble with the US government again.

The friend said Jimenez probably wanted to cool his heels first and did not want to stir controversy when he returns.

But Pichay said he expected Jimenez to come home after a while.

"I don't know, maybe in a few weeks he'll be back," Pichay said.

In another interview, Pichay told the INQUIRER: "He might be thinking of living peacefully in the Philippines upon his return. But one can never tell because politics is more contagious than bird flu." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Margaux C. Ortiz*

NPA kills 3 soldiers; GMA orders tougher . . .

From page A1

added, explaining the growing number of military casualties.

Blood traces

The latest confrontations followed the bloodiest rebel attack in a year, that killed nine soldiers and wounded more than 20 on Saturday in Iloilo province, the day before the NPA shot dead one police officer and wounded three in Tiaong.

Also on Monday, government troops said they killed seven suspected guerrillas at a farm near Palo town in Leyte but human rights activists and left-wing Rep. Satur Ocampo insisted the victims were unarmed farmers.

On Sunday, three Air Force troopers and a Tiaong policeman were also injured in another encounter in Barangay Anastacia.

Cabuay believed the escaping rebels also suffered heavy losses in the latest clash.

"There are lots of blood traces in the houses where the NPA took cover. Villagers also told my men how the rebels dragged the dead bodies of their comrades as well as the wounded," he said.

GMA order

"But our main concern now is the conduct of our continuing offensives. We will search for the burial grounds of the dead rebels later."

The Solcom chief said the military would also deploy more soldiers in hunting down the rebels.

Since Sunday, combined military and police forces, assisted by Air Force helicopters, have been combing possible escape routes of the rebels.

"The President wants a tough counterinsurgency campaign under proper rules of military engagement," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement. "Operations against the CPP-NPA will be pursued without letup, especially against terrorist bands that have used land mines, extorted money and burned cell sites," Bunye added.

Job well done

Malacañang gave the military a pat on the back for what it said was a job well done.

"Our security forces have been doing a good job as far as the counterinsurgency campaign is concerned, while the NPA is now heavily leaning on terror tactics," Bunye said.

"We stand on high operational and moral ground and the dissidents are on the run," Bunye said.

He said "a thorough investigation" would be conducted into allegations that the killing of the farmers in Palo was a massacre and not an encounter as stated by the military.

The probe will be aimed at unearthing the facts "to see if there has been any violation of law," said Bunye.

The rebels, who are on United States and European lists of terrorist organizations, suspended Norwegian-brokered talks with the government last year, saying Philippine officials had done little to try to get the group removed from the terrorist blacklists.

Spare civilians

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo accused the Armed Forces of barbarity following the killing of a militant leader in Pampanga and the deaths of members of his party-list group in Palo in the hands of the 802nd Infantry Battalion.

"The AFP should focus its firepower and arms on its armed opponents, not on unarmed civilians. They should not harm, injure and kill civilians and later paint them as rebels," Ocampo said.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan urged the administration to "speak out and condemn" the escalation of alleged political killings over the last three months.

"The political killings have escalated and yet not a word was heard from Malacañang. Silence and inaction can only mean tolerance for these heinous crimes," said Bayan secretary general Renato M. Reyes Jr.

Ceasefire call

Militants from human rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog also accused the police of harassment.

Kakai Tolentino, Karapatan-Southern Tagalog secretary general, told the INQUIRER how a group of policemen led by a certain SPO4 Danez prevented them from leaving the villages of Lusacan and Anastacia yesterday afternoon.

"The police stopped us from leaving the area. They suspected us of carrying the NPA guns and ammunitions out of the area. We have nothing to hide from them," Tolentino said.

Tiaong Mayor Raul Umali said his office had started to evacuate hundreds of residents in the vicinity of the encounter sites.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra called for a truce between the two sides.

"Instead of going at each other's throats (they should) "work for an immediate cessation of hostilities," Mitra said.

A mistake?

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said claims that those killed by soldiers in Palo were not communist rebels but farmers were a "cause for alarm."

"If the victims were indeed non-combatants, this was a terrible mistake that would only alienate government troops from the civilian population and this may heighten the insurgency war in the countryside," he said. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

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Gay librarian cries discrimination vs Miriam College

From page A1

fit into a round hole."

He held a job as a librarian at Miriam College, an exclusive Catholic school in Quezon City. He had friends who supported him, colleagues who respected him, and a partner to go through life with.

All that changed when Lacsamana "married" his partner, who happens to be male. The wedding was a symbolic union under the Order of St. Aelred, a church preaching Christian love for all, including homosexuals and other sexual minorities.

Within two months, the library and information science graduate of the University of the Philippines learned that his contract with Miriam College would not be renewed.

No official reason was given, but he was told the school could not tolerate gay weddings.

"You're like a square peg trying to fit into a round hole," he recalled a school official as telling him.

His services were terminated on June 14.

Going to court

Lacsamana has filed a criminal complaint against officials of the school, for alleged violation of the Quezon City ordinance forbidding discrimination against homosexuals. He has also brought the matter before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC).

"With this complaint, we are taking steps toward putting an end to discrimination against gays," said one of his lawyers, Clara Rita Padilla.

Lacsamana has charged five Miriam College officials—president Patricia Licuanan, vice president for academic affairs Grace Dalisay, associate dean Rosa Paragas, human resources chief Olivia Ilagan, and chief librarian Emelita del Rosario—with "pure and simple discrimination."

The school denied the charge in a statement issued to the INQUIRER.

It said: "Throughout its 79 years of existence, Miriam College has always been committed to the values of truth, justice and respect for persons. If these were not practiced, Mr. Lacsamana would not have been hired in the first place.

"Miriam College places much value on competence, professionalism and the spirit of service toward the attainment of its vision and mission and the promotion of its core values, regardless of personal circumstances and choices."

'Holy union'

Lacsamana and his partner entered into the "sacrament of holy union" on March 14 before abbott Richard Mickley at the St. Aelred Monastery Chapel in Quezon City.

He said his friends and former coworkers at Miriam College witnessed the "wedding."

A member of the Progressive Organization of Gays (ProGay) in the Philippines, Lacsamana said he was now into freelance writing.

He expressed hope that the dispute with Miriam College would soon be resolved, adding that he would accept his old job should the school, decide to reinstate him.

Gay and lesbian activists gathered yesterday at the NLRC to express support for Lacsamanat.

ProGay president Oscar Atadero said the Philippine government was bound by international covenants that it had ratified to protect the right of all citizens to equal treatment in the workplace.

Atadero cited two articles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1966 UN General Assembly Resolution:

- Article 10, which protects the right of gay men like Lacsamana to form a family and urges the signatory state to recognize that "marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses."
- Article 6.1, which recognizes the right to work, which in turn includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his/her living by work that he/she freely chooses or accepts.

Security of tenure

Lacsamana said the nonrenewal of his one-year contract was unfair and discriminatory because what he held was a tenure-tract position that entitled an employee to tenurial security once he/she passes the three-year probationary period.

"I was told that ... every professional librarian hired by Miriam College executes a contract with a term of one year for three consecutive years until he or she finally obtains security of tenure," he said.

His lawyer Jason Lamcheck said the only reason for the school's nonrenewal of an employee's contract was if his/her performance had not been good.

But Lacsamana said that when he asked why his contract was terminated, Dalisay told him his performance was not the reason because his evaluation ratings had been high.

He recalled Dalisay as saying he "should realize that Miriam College is a Catholic school, and that it cannot tolerate gay weddings."

He further quoted the official as saying: *"Kung nasa UP sana tayo, walang ganito. Pero since nandito ka na, sana inalam mo muna yung pinasukan mo, kung kayang tanggapin ang mga katulad mo* (If we were in UP, we wouldn't have this problem. But since you're here, you should have checked if your kind would be accepted here)."

Expired contract

But according to the school's external affairs office, Lacsamana was employed by Miriam College "under a one-year fixed-term contract, which has expired."

"Under the terms and conditions of a fixed-term contract, its renewal or nonrenewal is solely the institution's prerogative," it said.

It added that his accusation of illegal dismissal was "unfounded and unfair."

Garci is back, say wife, 2 congressmen

From page A1

whereabouts of the man at the center of a ballot-fixing scandal in 2004 had yet to be ascertained, he said.

An unimpeachable source also in Congress told the INQUIRER that his information was that Garcillano actually returned about a week ago.

Palace wants closure

Garcillano sparked the worst crisis to confront President Macapagal-Arroyo after he was heard in tape recordings talking with her about an alleged conspiracy to rig the poll results.

He and Ms Arroyo have denied involvement in any vote fraud.

"Garcillano (has been) here since two weeks ago," Plaza said.

He called on House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic to immediately arrest Garcillano, who was reported by the Department of Foreign Affairs to have flown secretly to Singapore on July 14.

Singapore had confirmed Garcillano's arrival in that city state but said it was unaware of his whereabouts after then.

Plaza said Garcillano's arrest and subsequent appearance before the chamber would provide a closure to the political crisis facing Ms Arroyo which had sparked the filing of an impeachment case against her.

"[What] Malacañang would want to happen [is] that there will be now a closure to the case," Plaza said.

Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the lead committee involved in a congressional probe into the election scandal, agreed the Palace needed to close the book on the controversy.

"Malacanang needs closure on the poll issues. Since Filipinos have a lower tolerance for negative stories during the holidays, Garcillano's testimony is not expected to stir outrage among the public," he said.

Fear for his safety

From Singapore, Garcillano was reported to have flown to London and then supposedly on to Brazil or Argentina.

The DFA later said it had alerted all its missions in some 80 countries to look out for him.

But not a trace of him turned up.

ANC said that in its interview with Grace Garcillano, she told the network that her husband was willing to come out and tell everything he knew and "clear his name."

According to her, Garcillano would also disclose that it was not only Ms Arroyo who called her but that other candidates as well, including members of the opposition.

She said one of them was "a lady persistent caller."

She said her husband decided to drop out of public view because he feared for his safety.

Garcillano was also upset by media reports portraying him like he was a criminal, she said, according to the network.

Enforce arrest warrant

News of Garcillano's return threw the lower chamber's session into near disarray, triggering a heated debate.

The debate ended when both the presiding officer and the majority leader ruled that the arrest warrant issued on Aug. 3 by the chamber against Garcillano should be enforced immediately.

The chamber also authorized the resumption of the hearings launched by five House committees on the "Hello Garci" tapes scandal.

No outrage during holidays

Several administration lawmakers urged Garcillano to come out to put an end to questions about the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

"It's a gambit ... a very risky move," said the unimpeachable source, who asked not to be named.

Another congressman, Rep. Prospero Pichay, said: "If he calls me up, I will personally convince him to testify." He said he would guarantee that Garcillano's rights were protected.

Plaza's public revelation of Garcillano's return, however, apparently disrupted the timeline being followed by his handlers.

Plaza in effect preempted what could be a "surprise and dramatic appearance" of Garcillano, the source said.

Arrest on sight

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said he had instructed his men to locate and arrest Virgilio Garcillano "on sight" based on the warrant issued by the House of Representatives.

"It's not necessary that you have physical possession of the arrest warrant. If you have knowledge that the warrant is valid, you can arrest him," Lacson said.

Lacson said the "men" he was referring to were the same people who spotted Garcillano's wife in their farm either in Marawi City or Bukidnon "five or six days ago."

"There's no sighting of Garcillano himself, but they received reports that he's in the area. In fact, they saw some people posted in these areas," Lacson said in a phone interview.

On Monday, Lacson told reporters he had received reports that the Garcillanos had arrived in the country, and that they had been shuttling between their farms in Marawi City and Bukidnon.

The senator last night said that an administration lawmaker was "responsible in transporting" Garcillano to Mindanao via Cagayan de Oro, but declined to name him or her.

Lacson theorized that Garcillano's possible impending appearance could be part of Malacañang's plot to turn the tables on opposition leaders and link them to electoral fraud.

Staged-managed?

"That's one scenario. Malacañang has allowed him to come back to muddle the situation," he said. "This is all a ploy, assuming that he's still being handled by Malacañang, which I have no reason to doubt."

"If his appearance is stage-managed, then we should expect half-truths to come from him. But if he's acting on his own, then that's favorable not only to the opposition but to all of us. With his appearance, we're nearing the closure of the issue," Lacson added.

Other senators welcomed the news of Garcillano's return.

"That's good news, if that's the case, because with him alive, at least we can expect some verification as to the truth to the allegations that it was his voice that was heard in the tape," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

No record

"Let's wait for what he will say," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said his bureau had no record of his arrival.

He said Garcillano's name did not turn up when immigration officials rechecked all records and passenger manifests in the country's airports after the news broke that Garcillano was back. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

Citibank fined by BSP for trust violations

From page A1

The INQUIRER tried to reach Citibank but the bank maintained its policy of not commenting on clients' complaints. Industry sources said Citibank had filed with the BSP a motion for reconsideration.

Poblador's complaint against Citibank appeared in a series of INQUIRER reports on Jan. 4-7. A separate complaint filed by Diploma, a Japanese married to a Filipino lawyer, mirrored Poblador's case.

Shigeko's husband Nordy Diploma wrote the BSP in October 2004 complaining against Citibank's "breach of trust and gross mismanagement" of his wife's investment management account.

Sources said Diploma had retracted the complaint filed with the BSP, which was in turn cited by Citibank as a basis for contesting the monetary penalties.

Other sources confirmed Diploma had indeed withdrawn the complaint as part of an out-of-court settlement.

Unsafe practice

A client of Citibank New York for 25 years, Poblador had accused Citibank of "illegal and fraudulent, or at the very least, unsafe and unsound business practices."

She claimed she was cajoled in June 1997, a month before the Asian crisis erupted, by a Citibank personnel into buying bonds issued by Benpres Holdings Corp.

Benpres suspended debt payments a few years later, dragged down by its exposure in bleeding Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Bayan Telecommunications. To date, Maynilad is under court receivership.

Section X409.2 of the MORB says assets received in trust shall be administered in accordance with the terms of the instrument creating the trust or other fiduciary relationship.

When a trustee is granted discretionary powers in the investment disposition of a fund and unless otherwise specifically enumerated in writing by the client, loans and investments of the fund shall be limited to government bonds, loans secured by real estate or chattels, pledge of deposits or deposit substitutes of other banks or of mortgage and chattel mortgage bonds issued by the trustee or fiduciary.

Reportorial requirements

The other violation pertained to reportorial requirements to the investor. MORB Section X425.1 says a trustee-bank shall render reports to the trustor based on specific guidelines.

The trustee is required to apprise the investor of significant developments in the administration of the account by furnishing him or her a balance sheet, an income statement, a schedule of earning assets and an investment activity report.

In her complaint, Poblador said she deposited $200,000 with the Makati branch of Citibank on June 20, 1997, assisted by Emily Santos, a relationship manager at the bank.

Santos allegedly persuaded Poblador to invest $150,000 instead in Benpres bonds, which was supposed to be divided into bond certificates of $50,000 and $100,000 each. The rest of her money was placed in dollar time and checking accounts.

She was given a batch of documents to sign, described by Santos as standard forms. Even if she found them "too small to be legible" she trustingly signed them and asked for her copies, but Santos allegedly said her copies would be sent "in a couple of days."

Got copy 4 years later

Since that day, Poblador claimed she was kept in the dark about the real status of her money. What she had signed turned out to be a revocable trust agreement (RTA), which she said she was not given the opportunity to study, as she got a copy four years later.

She also said the documents faxed to her had deleted an important provision, which should have told her she had a 10-day period from receipt of her copy to notify Citibank of any objections to the investment. Instead of terminating her investment after 18 months as originally promised, Santos reinvested and took money out of her time deposit to buy more Benpres bonds, which was contrary to Poblador's repeated instructions to unload her investments from Benpres.

But Citibank said Poblador's allegations of fraud and wrongdoing were unfounded. The foreign bank said it would not risk its reputation just to earn minimal trust fees.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush plotted to bomb al-Jazeera, report says

LONDON—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush planned to bomb pan-Arab television broadcaster al-Jazeera, British newspaper the Daily Mirror said Tuesday, citing a Downing Street memo marked "Top Secret."

The five-page transcript of a conversation between Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair reveals that Blair talked Bush out of launching a military strike on the station, unnamed sources told the anti-war-in-Iraq daily.

The transcript of the pair's talks during Blair's April 16, 2004 visit to Washington allegedly shows Bush wanted to attack the satellite channel's headquarters.

Blair allegedly feared such a strike, in the business district of Doha, the capital of Qatar, a key western ally in the Persian Gulf, would spark revenge attacks.

The Mirror quoted an unnamed British government official as saying Bush's threat was "humorous, not serious."

Al-Jazeera's perspectives on the war in Iraq have drawn criticism from Washington since the US-led March 2003 invasion.

The station has broadcast messages from al-Qaida terror network chief Osama bin Laden and the beheadings of Western hostages by insurgents in Iraq, as well as footage of dead coalition servicemen and Iraqi civilians killed in fighting.

A source told the Mirror: "The memo is explosive and hugely damaging to Bush.

"He made clear he wanted to bomb al-Jazeera in Qatar and elsewhere. Blair replied that would cause a big problem.

"There's no doubt what Bush wanted to do—and no doubt Blair didn't want him to do it."

Another source said: "Bush was deadly serious, as was Blair. That much is absolutely clear from the language used by both men."

A spokesperson for Blair's Downing Street office said: "We have got nothing to say about this story. We don't comment on leaked documents."

The Mirror said the memo turned up in the office of then British lawmaker Tony Clarke, a member of Blair's Labour Party, in May 2004. *AFP*

US troops shoot dead Iraqis in van

BAGHDAD—US TROOPS FEARING A CAR bomb attack fired on a crowded minivan and killed at least three civilians including a child north of Baghdad on Monday.

The US Army's 3rd Infantry Division said its troops had opened fire after first trying to wave the minivan to a stop and then firing warning shots.

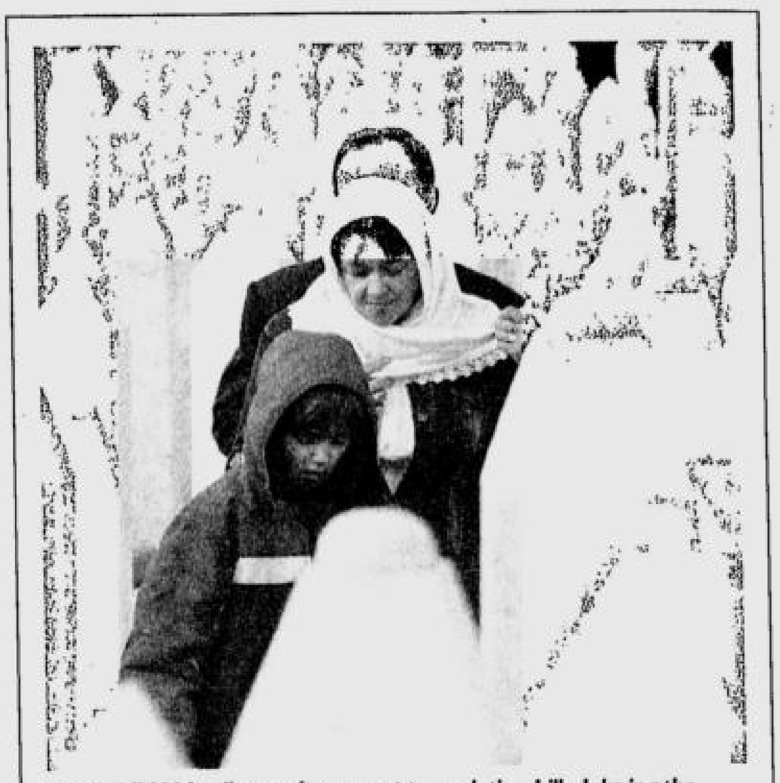
"These tragedies only happen because Zarqawi and his thugs are out there driving around with car bombs," said Major Steve Warren, a spokesperson for US forces in Baquba, in reference to the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Two men and a child were killed and three people were wounded, Warren said. Survivors disputed the military's account, insisting that five family members, including two children, died and four were wounded as bullets tore through the van.

One of the survivors told Reuters the family had been driving from Balad, a town about 80 km north of Baghdad, to Baquba for a funeral and had tried to move over to make way for a US patrol when they were shot at.

Reuters television footage showed two children's bodies in a Baquba morgue and relatives kissing another body on a morgue trolley. One child's head appeared to have been blown off.

"They are all children. They are not terrorists," shouted an unidentified relative. "Look at the children," he said. *Reuters*



A BOSNIAN family pays its respect to a relative, killed during the 1992-1995 country's war, at Sarajevo's central cemetery Kosevo, Nov. 21. Bosnia today marked the 10th anniversary of the peace deal that ended more than three years of bloody inter-ethnic war and split the country into a shaky system of separate but equal entities. AFP

A decade after war, deal appears set to unify Bosnia

By Barry Schweid

WASHINGTON—A DECADE after a three-year war in Bosnia gave way to an ethnically divided government, all signs pointed Tuesday to a constitutional overhaul that could erase divisions and set the stage for the Balkan country's entry into the European Union.

The clincher was likely to be applied under the supervision of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was presiding over a lavish luncheon to celebrate the 1995 Dayton Accords, that were engineered by President Bill Clinton's administration and negotiated and signed at Dayton, Ohio.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, then the US spokesperson and now the chief negotiator, foresaw late Monday an accord that would replace a three-presidents arrangement with a single president and potentially point the way to a strong prime minister and a strong parliament.

Burns said the idea is to have political party leaders work out details before elections next year.

Six months ago, while Burns was in the capital Sarajevo, a major step to reform occurred when a single defense ministry was formed out of two armies, two defense ministers and two chiefs of staff.

With leaders of the Bosnian, Serb and Croatian communities all in Washington for the anniversary celebration of the Dayton Accords, Burns said that having come all the way to Washington, D.C., he believed they would come together tomorrow on a statement.

"We're not there yet. We don't have an agreement yet," Burns said. "But I'm confident that they're heading in that direction."

Bosnia currently has a weak government. For example, it has 14 education departments. European leaders have warned that the situation must be revised before Bosnia can enter the European Union.

In rare tribute by a Bush administration official to its predecessor, Burns praised the accords reached in Dayton, Ohio, "as a seminal moment in American diplomacy." *AP*

Sharon quits Likud, creates political quake

SHARON REUTERS

JERUSALEM—PRIME MINISTER ARIEL Sharon unleashed a political earthquake in Israel Monday by splitting from his Likud party as parliament began paving the way for a general election early next year.

Sharon, fed up with trying to work with the right-wing party he founded three decades ago, said that he had decided to set up his own movement known as the National Responsibility party.

"I have begun, with my colleagues, setting up a new party," Sharon told a press conference in Jerusalem.

"Likud in its current format cannot lead Israel toward its national goals. Staying in Likud means wasting time in political squabbles rather than acting on behalf of the good of the country."

The 77-year-old will head up the party list when the country goes to the polls, most likely in March after the 120-seat parliament is dissolved.

Sharon requested the dissolution at a meeting with President Moshe Katsav, telling him that his administration was no longer able to function.

The president now has to ask parliament speaker Reuven Rivlin to dissolve the Knesset, after which elections should be held within 90 days, or by late March at the outside.

Lawmakers effectively began the dissolution process themselves on Monday by overwhelmingly approving eight preliminary motions to dissolve the 120-seat parliament. Further votes on the motions are scheduled on Tuesday.

The center-left Labour party cleared the way for an early election by voting Sunday to pull out of the government, ending a 10-month coalition that allowed Sharon to push through the withdrawal of troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip.

Sharon had been widely expected to break with Likud following disputes with hardliners over the Gaza pullout which was completed in September. *AFP*

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Food, labor shortages seen in bird flu pandemic

SYDNEY—MAJOR SHORTAGES OF FOOD, FUel and labor would occur during a bird flu pandemic and some companies would be forced to shut down entirely, Australian experts said Tuesday as Health Minister Tony Abbott warned that a global outbreak was increasingly likely.

Urging businesses to play a leading role in stockpiling the critical raw materials needed for production in the event of a pandemic, security analyst Alan Dupont said that companies could also take up to three years to recover should avian flu spread around the world.

The dire notice came as Abbott told a Sydney meeting that a serious bird flu pandemic was likely inescapable.

"The world is, we think, overdue for a new pandemic and it's quite likely that the next pandemic will be a serious one," Abbott told the Australian Industry Group event.

The minister said the risk of a bird flu pandemic, which could result should the virus mutate from a disease spread via poultry-to-human contact into a more contagious human-to-human form, was about 10 percent in any given year.

He said a global pandemic was likely to emerge in Southeast Asia, which has so far accounted for almost all of the deaths from the H5N1 strain of the virus.

Experts have warned that a pandemic could kill millions of people worldwide.

Dupont, a senior fellow for international security at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, said a pandemic would pose a risk to both the production of goods and services and a constant labor force.

"In the first instance—if there is a flu pandemic—tourism, hospitality, transport and retail trade would be the most affected," he told the Sydney conference.

"Now if we had a major decline in tourism, which would almost certainly follow ... you would literally see a cessation, I think, of air travel and you would not see people visiting restaurants or going to hotels.

"So you are going to have, potentially, a collapse of those sectors for a period of time.

"With a bird flu pandemic it could be for up to three years."

Dupont said every industrial sector would potentially suffer and warned business leaders to make contingency plans that would last the two to three years it would take the economy to fully recover.

"There would be major shortages in the work force certainly for six months and possibly longer," he said.

"You are going to also see a very major shortage developing in your basic commodities—everything from food, to soap and light bulbs right through to medicines, spare parts and petrol.

"Many industries not critical to survival actually might have to close."

Dupont also warned of instability in global financial markets, saying there would likely be a rapid sell-off of bonds and equities in Australia, coupled with a flight into cash and gold, should a pandemic hit. *AFP*

Tycoon's parrot faces jail

WELLINGTON, NEW Zealand—A parrot on the luxury yacht of Chelsea soccer club owner Roman Abramovic will have to be locked up and tested for bird flu and other diseases when the oil billionaire's feathered friend visits New Zealand, officials said Tuesday.

The African gray parrot aboard the giant yacht Le Grand Bleu will be required to leave New Zealand immediately if it is found to be infected with any unwanted diseases, Biosecurity New Zealand officials said.

The yacht is expected shortly to visit the South Pacific nation of Tonga. It was not immediately clear if Abramovic, owner of British soccer club Chelsea, was on the vessel.

Crew members have contacted officials in hopes of visiting areas round New Zealand, causing a flurry of concern about the parrot.

"We don't import live birds at all. We do import ... poultry eggs from Australia, the US, the UK and Canada, but we don't do live birds," said Phil Barclay, senior communications adviser at Biosecurity New Zealand.

"Our problem is the potential that the parrot has to carry a number of diseases"—including up to 15 strains of bird flu—he said. *AP*

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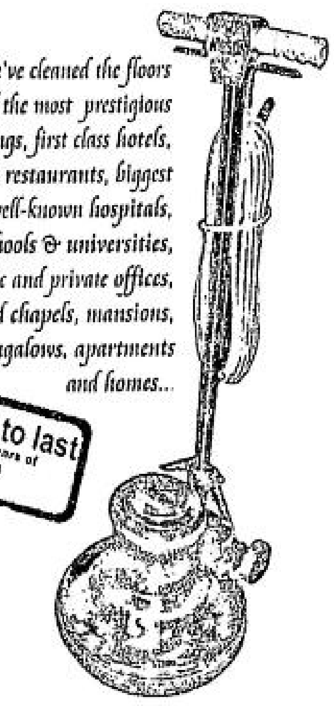
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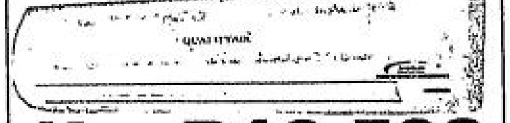
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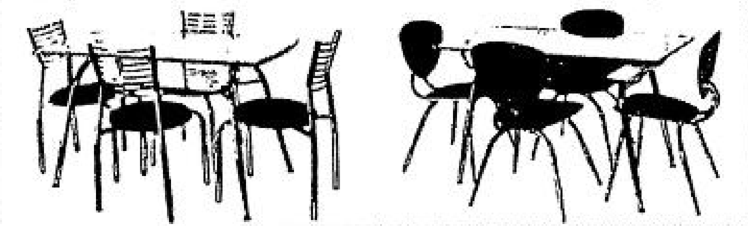
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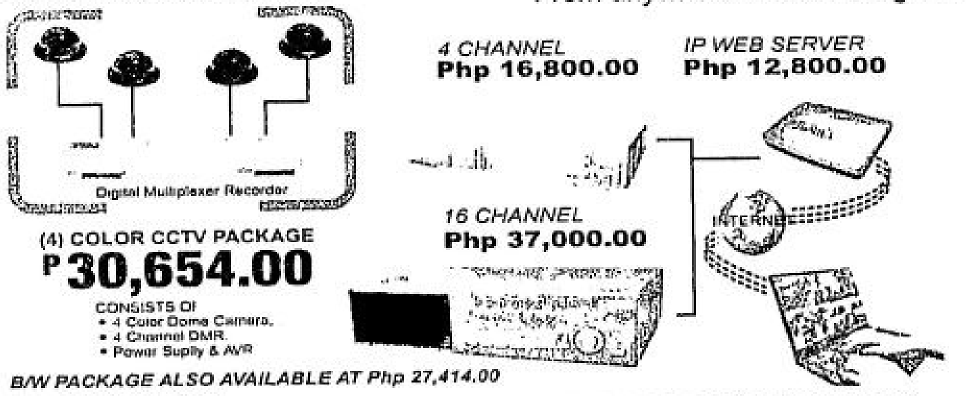
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DESIGNATED German Chancellor Angela Merkel calls the room to order with a bell prior a parliamenary group meeting of her Christian Democrats (CDU), Nov. 21 in Berlin, one day before she is due to be voted in by the Bundestag. AFP PHOTO

Germany's first woman chancellor

BERLIN—ANGELA MERKEL IS SET TO WIN broad support in parliament on Tuesday and become Germany's first woman chancellor, but her fragile coalition must prove it can contain infighting and revive Europe's largest economy.

With her government of center-right Christian Democrats (CDU) and center-left Social Democrats (SPD) holding 448 of the 614 seats in the Bundestag, the 51-year-old pastor's daughter is widely expected to get the majority she needs to be confirmed as chancellor in a vote scheduled for 10 a.m. (0900 GMT).

The vote will make her the first German chancellor to have grown up in the former communist east and bring to an end months of political uncertainty that followed an inconclusive Sept. 18 general election.

But a majority of Germans are convinced the conservative leader will not last a full four-year term because of her unwieldy alliance with the SPD of outgoing Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Merkel was forced during month-long coalition talks to scrap her plans for a major shake-up of the German social welfare system that had been a cornerstone of her election program.

Revive the economy

She is vowing to resuscitate the economy, once Europe's motor but now one of the weakest in the 25-nation EU, and cut unemployment that hit post-war highs under Schroeder.

Merkel also wants to repair relations with Washington, strained by Schroeder's opposition to the US-led war in Iraq.

But she will be governing with a watered-down coalition program that suggests continuity rather than a dramatic break from Schroeder, who implemented tentative reforms himself.

"Merkel's challenge is to break the restraints of the coalition agreement while convincing the SPD that the reform course of Schroeder is being continued, not that the conservatives are having their way," conservative German daily Die Welt said in an editorial on Tuesday.

After the vote in parliament, she and her cabinet will be sworn in and formally take over from the SPD-Greens coalition government that Schroeder has led for the past seven years.

Merkel represents a generational change and a break in style from the flamboyant Schroeder, who favored Italian suits and fat cigars and seemed most at ease when in the media spotlight.

Her clinical, almost shy approach, has been mocked in the German media, but some commentators believe it is tailor-made for her new "grand coalition" that bridges right and left and will require delicate management.

"Her dislike of the theatrical in politics, of the show and big words, fits with the new sobriety of Germany's younger generation," said German daily newspaper Handelsblatt.

Like her political mentor, former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Merkel has been underestimated throughout her career. That helped her push aside rivals in her male-dominated, heavily Catholic CDU and may play to her advantage again.

Her cabinet is dominated by pragmatists and the stability of her government could also be helped by a strong sense within the two camps in the coalition that failure would prompt voters to abandon them in any early elections.

Merkel has made cutting unemployment a top priority and the handling of this goal could determine the fate of her government.

She must hope that the central plank of her coalition program—an agreement to bring the budget deficit back within EU borrowing limits by 2007 mainly through higher sales taxes—will not get in the way of achieving her target. *Reuters*

German engineers made sure that SsangYong carries the only Multi Purpose Vehicle (MPV) in its class that uses a 10-link rear suspension combined with a double wish bone front suspension that guarantees a comfortable ride whether in full passenger or not.

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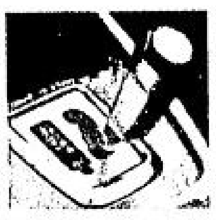

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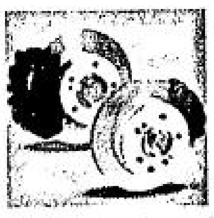

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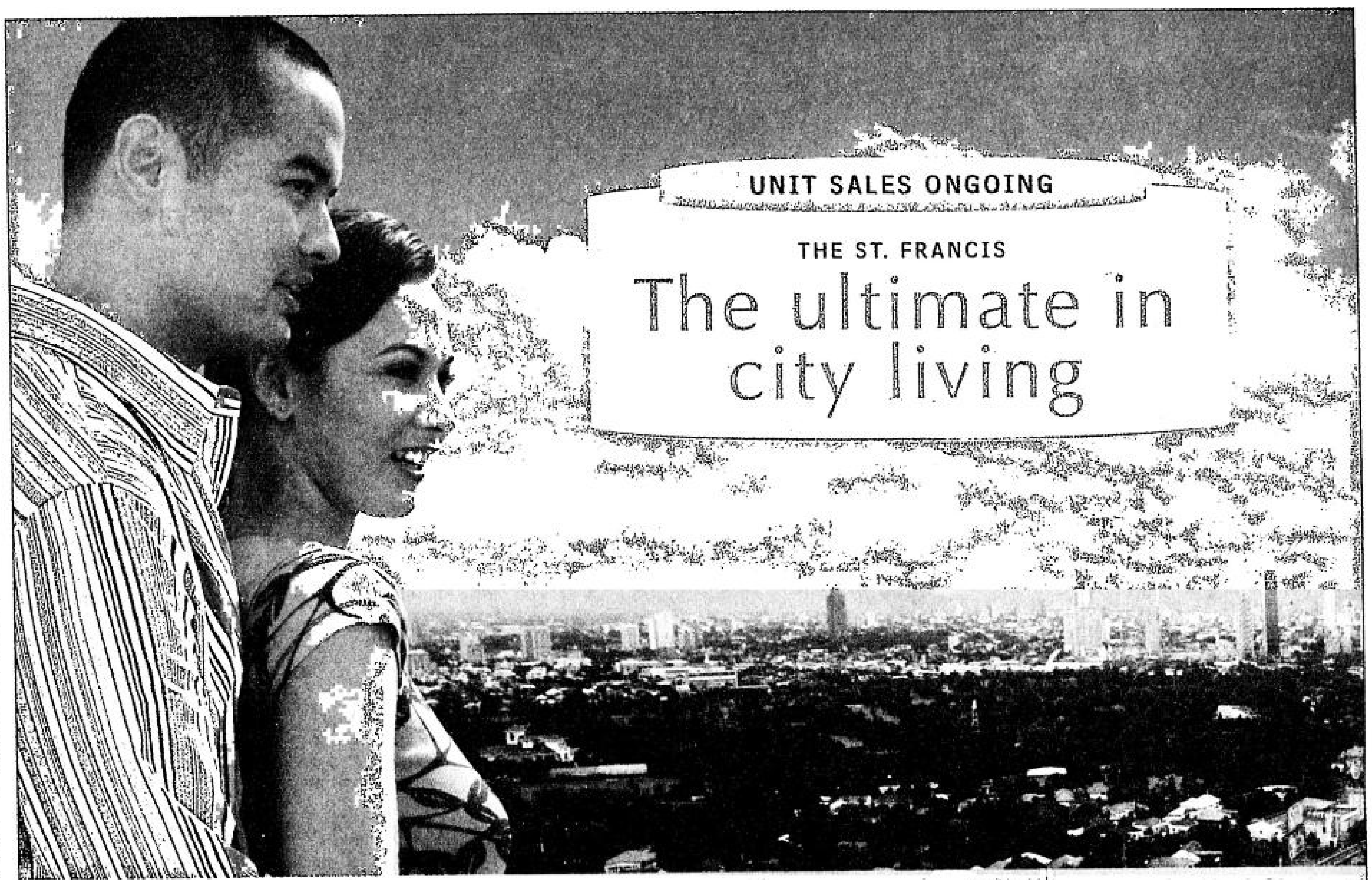
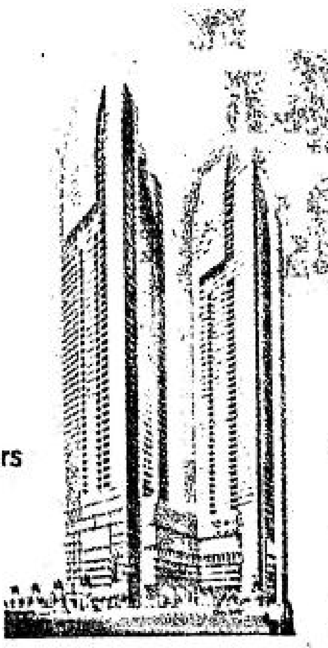
GERMAN TECHNOLOGY





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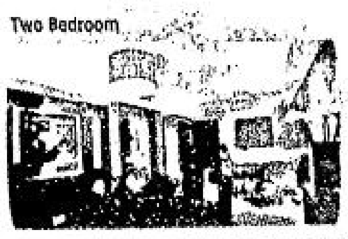

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For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

Dapat Sulit.

Pfizer

US monsignor arrested for fondling boys

FUSHEK AP

PHOENIX—THE FORMER VICAR GENERAL OF the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix was arrested on charges he fondled boys and young men and asked them prying questions about their sex lives that he pretended were part of confession.

Monsignor Dale Fushek, 53, becomes one of the highest-ranking priests to be charged in the sex scandal that has engulfed the church. The vicar general is the highest-ranking administrator of a diocese next to the bishop.

Fushek was charged with three counts of assault, five of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and two of indecent exposure. All are misdemeanors, punishable by no more than three years and nine months in all. He was arrested on Monday.

At his initial court appearance, Fushek was placed under house arrest and ordered to wear an electronic ankle bracelet for monitoring. He also was ordered to surrender his passport and not have contact with anyone under age 18. Fushek's arraignment was set for Dec. 6.

Fushek "used a relationship of trust to perform criminal acts, including but not limited to sexual activities, improper sexual discussions and physical contact, upon vulnerable minor and adult victims," prosecutors said in court papers.

Prosecutors said Fushek committed the acts between 1984 and 1994 at St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Mesa or on property belonging to the church. The alleged victims were seven young men and boys.

Fushek resigned as pastor of St. Timothy's in April after someone claimed to have recovered a repressed memory involving sexual improprieties by Fushek in 1985. He has denied the allegations and remains on administrative leave. *AP*

MICHELLE Leslie in a Denpasar courtroom, Nov. 18. REUTERS

Freed Aussie model advised not to sell story

SYDNEY—AN AUSTRALIAN MODEL CONVICTED of drug possession in Indonesia should not sell her story to the media as it could jeopardize other Australians facing drug charges in the archipelago, a former federal judge said Tuesday.

Underwear and catwalk model Michelle Leslie, 24, arrived in Australia on Tuesday after serving three months in a prison on the Indonesian resort island of Bali for having unlawfully obtained two ecstasy pills.

Leslie wore traditional Muslim dress during her trial but emerged from jail in a midriff-baring singlet top, leading to accusations in Australia that she staged a sham commitment to Islam to win sympathy from Indonesian judges.

Former Federal Court Judge Marcus Einfeld said Australians on trial in Indonesia could pay if Leslie said anything in a tell-all memoir that indicated she had tried to hoodwink the Indonesian justice system.

"If this woman humiliates the Indonesians, the next person who gets into trouble in Indonesia will suffer greatly," Einfeld said.

"The idea that she may have falsely taken on Islam, and I don't know whether she did or not, ought to be played very quietly indeed."

As Leslie's representatives shop her story around to the highest bidder, Prime Minister John Howard said he did not believe she should benefit financially from her crime.

"Many Australians, including me, do not believe that she should profit from telling her story," he said.

Australia has laws preventing convicted criminals from profiting by telling their story and Howard said authorities would examine any deal struck by Leslie's handlers.

Howard said Canberra had asked Indonesia to consider Australian domestic sensitivities as they prosecuted a series of high-profile drug cases involving Australians, including former beauty student Schapelle Corby and the so-called "Bali Nine," alleged heroin traffickers.

He said the Indonesians should expect the same courtesy. *AFP*

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OPINION

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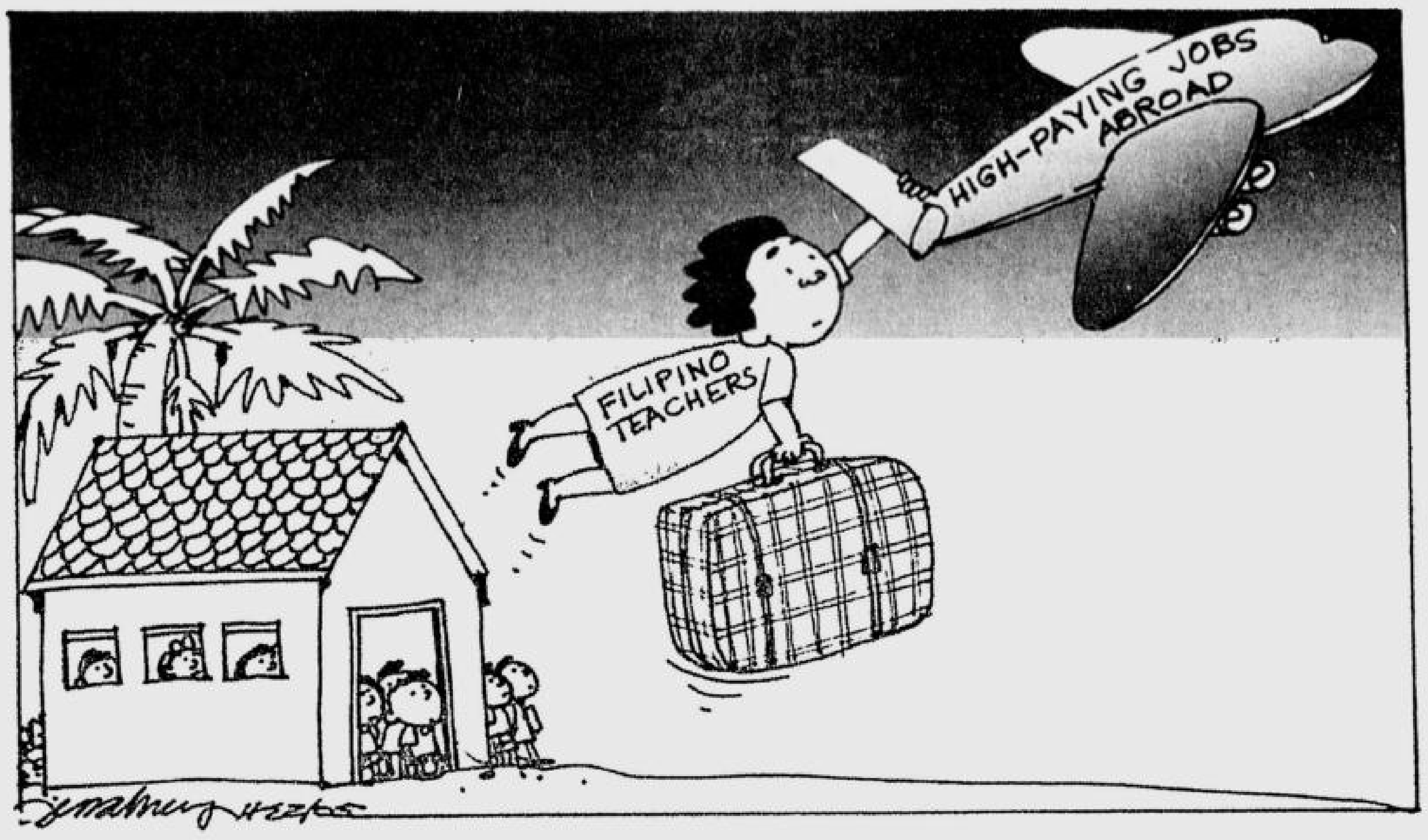

Final solution

EDITORIAL

SOME YEARS AGO, THERE WERE OFFICERS IN THE Armed Forces who spoke of a "final solution" to Muslim insurgency in the Philippines. Whether or not they recognized the full implications of using such an evil term harking to the Nazis is beside the point. They viewed their objective of defeating insurgency as achievable not through the clear and forthright "winning of hearts and minds," but instead through the prism of either ethnic or religious cleansing. A "final solution" to the Mindanao problem, mercifully, never became official policy, nor was it viewed publicly as even worth considering. But it indicated what at least some military officials considered worth doing, and what they seem to be doing now.

Close to a hundred Filipino journalists have been killed since 1986 (the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines puts the number at 72). An overwhelming majority of these fatalities were journalists operating in the provinces. The latest of these victims was Roberto "Robby" Ramos, a reporter and columnist of the weekly Katapat News, who was killed on Sunday in Laguna. His murder was the second killing of a journalist in three days and the ninth this year.

The only group, perhaps, that exceeds that of journalists in terms of lives lost at the hands of politically motivated murderers is the above-ground organizations of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Since 2001, the number of people associated with these groups that have been murdered has reached 86. On Monday, Rommel Arcilla, a member of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), was killed in Pampanga. On the same day, the bodies of Maribel Supera, former president of the League of Filipino Students in the Central Luzon State University, and her husband Danilo, were found. They'd been stuffed in two sacks and dumped in a farm. Both had been hogtied and their mouths covered with masking tape. Maribel was pregnant at the time of her death.

How has government responded to these crimes and those that have come before? Without outrage. Without concern that goes beyond lip-service. There has been no justice. There is nothing, in the record of the government thus far, to uphold the belief that the rule of law exists. There appears, for lack of a consistent, stringent and strenuous effort to the contrary, a state-sanctioned policy of political repression and liquidations. There is no other way to interpret the systematic assassinations of so many media people and members of organizations who espouse the political program of the Communist Party but do not belong to the ranks of its cadres fighting in the field.

Defenders of the government insist that journalists are dying not because of the practice of their profession but because of their involvement either in partisan politics or in activities that dishonor the profession. They further suggest that a distinction cannot be made between members of the New People's Army fighting the military and civilians in organizations that participate in the political arena. And yet there are no wholesale liquidations going on of extortionists, racketeers and other crooks, if that is what, for the sake of argument, the slain journalists really were. Neither has there been a concerted effort to assassinate members of all the other groups that not only oppose the government but the existing social and economic system.

The dislike this administration feels for the media is obvious, palpable and being taken to lengths unprecedented in the post-1986 era. The elimination of individuals engaged in organizing the Left aboveground is unprecedented, too. Previous administrations since that of Corazon Aquino had their fair share of abuses and grisly murders of activists, but only now has there been so many killed, so steadily and with so little accountability.

It is the policy of the state to defeat the communist and other insurgencies. It is the tendency of every administration to dislike the media it does not control. But it is not the policy of the state to silence opposition and criticism with bullets and summary executions involving torture. Nor should it ever be. Only the most criminal of regimes engages in the wholesale extermination of its enemies. Things may not have yet reached the levels of Nazi genocide, but so far, all we have seen is a government imbued with a callousness toward law, order and decency that hints of a Nazi-like quality to its dreams.

Gov't wants to use dwBR for propaganda

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES HAS VERY MANY RADIO stations, both AM and FM bands. I listen to only two: dwFE for classical music, and dwBR for decent music, usually old favorites. All the rest are the same: a cacophony of loud noise, and air time-buying commentators.

Many of my friends listen to the same two stations for the same reason: they are the only two stations that play really beautiful music, decent and in good taste. The government-owned dwBR still has some of the old-time disc jockeys who play old favorites that are a joy to listen to: Bong Lapira, Jo San Diego, etc. The whole day on Sundays, one after the other they take turns giving the same soothing voices that charm listeners and romantic music until the wee hours.

But now some wise guy in Malacañang wants to stop all that. This bureaucrat wants to change dwBR into an "All Original Pilipino Music" (OPM) station. In short, he wants to make it still another tree in the forest of OPM radio stations, which are already too many and all the same, a cliché in radio broadcasting.

Now, why would Malacañang do that? At first glance, playing all Pilipino music and renaming "Radyo ng Bayan" into "Radyo ng Pilipino" seem like a patriotic thing to do. But that is only a camouflage. The real purpose is to turn dwBR into another propaganda outlet of the Arroyo administration. Plenty of "news and information" and "talk shows" (aka: propaganda) will be added. And here is the best part for the "commissioners": new equipment will be purchased, and you know what that means.

The change is obviously just the latest step in the government's efforts to reverse its negative image in the media. The administration already has many other radio stations, three television networks (all paid for by taxpayers' money), four or five newspapers under its influence, plus a number of alleged "columnists" and "commentators" in its pocket, all of them spewing administration propaganda. News about the opposition as well as anti-government views are almost totally shut out of these outlets. But the administration is still not happy. It complains that there is too much "negative news" and too little "positive news" in the media. So it is going to abolish a perfectly good and unique programming by dwBR to turn it into an unabashed propaganda tool.

I have bad news for them. The government propaganda outlets are not effective not because there are not enough of them but because the people don't believe them. The Goebbels principle that "if you repeat a lie often enough, the people will start believing it" doesn't hold true anymore. People are already wise to the tricks of governments.

Even if the propaganda outlets keep repeating endlessly that Ate Glue won in the 2004 elections "fair and square," Filipinos will not stop believing that she cheated. Even if her propagandists keep repeating that the P723-million fertilizer fund was spent for the purchase of fertilizer for farmers, people will not stop believing that it was used to fertilize the votes of Ate Glue. Adding one more radio station to Ate Glue's array of propaganda tools won't turn black into white. It won't change the fact that she lied when she promised that she wouldn't run for reelection. It won't erase the tape that caught her telling Garci to give her a one-million vote lead over Fernando Poe Jr. It won't make her a legitimate president.

The administration complains that there is "too much negative news," as if media are inventing these negative stories and shutting out the good news just to irritate Ate Glue. But these negative stories are all true; they are not inventions. And there are more of them simply because so many bad things do happen. Media report them because they are the truth that the people should know about. The only way to reduce the number of negative stories is for public officials to lie less, steal less and cheat less. As for good news, the best news that all the media outlets will play up is when Ate Glue steps down.

Self-censorship, which Ate Glue wants the media to do, won't make things better. People would still be hungry, jobless, homeless and unhappy even if media report only the "good news." They would know that the media are lying and cheating them. That's what happened during the Marcos martial law regime. The media published only favorable news about the administration. And look what happened: The people didn't believe the establishment press and went to great pains to get hold of copies of the underground press to know the truth.

Besides, even with media exposing venalities in government, public officials still keep stealing as if there is no tomorrow. Can you imagine all the stealing, lying and cheating that would happen if media stop reporting them?

The failure of the press to report the corruption and wrongdoing going on would be the greatest conspiracy against the people. The press is the watchdog, the eyes and ears of the people. It is one of their defenses against an oppressive and abusive government. Can you imagine what would happen if the press abdicates its responsibility?

Going back to dwBR, don't fix it because it ain't broke. It is the only saving grace in the government's spotty record in broadcasting. It serves the need of discriminating listeners looking for a refreshing change to the cacophony of noise in the airwaves. It has built a reputation for integrity and good taste in music. Add more Pilipino music all right but don't shut out good foreign music.

And save it from being used for shoddy propaganda.

Goodness gracious

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

GALLUP INTERNATIONAL CAME OUT WITH an interesting survey last week. The Philippines, it said, was the most religious country in all of Asia. Predominantly Catholic—83 percent—the Philippines has 90 percent of its 85 million souls professing religiosity. India is only second with 87 percent. Hong Kong has the least number of religious people, with only 14 percent professing it. Thailand has the highest number of non-religious citizens in the world: 65 percent of its population.

Well, the finding is easily borne out by the sights and sounds in these parts. The religiosity is fairly patent. The separation between Church and State, while having progressed significantly since the time of the friars, is far from complete. You need no further proof of it than the last couple of Edsas, the first one in particular which made People Power indistinguishable from Prayer Power. In this country, you never really know where politics ends and religion begins, any more than you know where politics ends and entertainment begins.

Just as well, there's abundant proof of it in the religious sects that abound in this country. They have become so plentiful—and powerful—they're overrunning TV. The Iglesia ni Cristo has a station; Eddie Villanueva, Mike Velarde and the Dating Daan group also have theirs. Kidnapping and carjacking rank only next to founding churches as the fastest-growing cottage industry in the country today. If that is a sign of religious fervor, then truly this country is the most religious in all of Asia.

That is the good news. The bad news is that the Philippines is also one of the most immoral countries in all of Asia, if not the most immoral.

That Hong Kong and Thailand, which have the least number of religious devotees, or nuts, depending on how you look at it, have gotten far ahead in life and we haven't wouldn't be such a bad thing if we could at least think of it as a trade-off: they have material progress, we have spiritual uplift. They have worldly goods, we have otherworldly grace. They have creature comforts, we have peace of mind. But, alas, there isn't even that. The impoverishment of our bodies has not been made up for by the enrichment of our souls. Our economic destitution has only gone hand in hand with moral bankruptcy.

Lest we forget, we are now the second most corrupt country in all of Asia, after Indonesia. We have become the murder capital for journalists in Asia, though that has to be qualified by the fact that, unlike Burma, our journalists are still relatively free to proclaim the bad news. We have institutionalized lying, cheating and stealing as the hallmark of elections. And lest we forget—though that is what we are being made to do by our secular and moral guardians—we have a president we did not vote for.

Why is this so?

The tempting explanation is that religion must really be the opium of the masses, as Marx contended, or that there is something in Catholicism, in particular, that thwarts morality along with progress. There are arguments aplenty for both. One foreigner (an Australian doctor, I later found out because he wrote to me identifying himself as such) used to appear in our Letters to the Editor regularly fulminating against religion, which he figured was the bane of this country. It was the No. 1 cause of runaway population growth, he argued, which was plunging us deeper into the abyss. And I have heard friends argue as well that Catholicism is the handmaiden of sloth and hypocrisy where Protestantism is, well, it is where "Protestant work ethic" comes from.

If I do not entirely embrace these arguments, it is not because I myself have been seized by beatific vision of the Teresa of Avila kind. It is simply because there are arguments aplenty against them. Ireland and Latin America are proof Catholicism can be a path to liberation and Protestantism, particularly of the kind preached by Pat Robertson, a road to hell. Lest we forget, it is in the name of the United Methodist God George W. Bush is tormenting the world.

My own belief is that our peculiar version of Catholicism contains humongous elements that are inimical to both morality and progress. The most patent of which is its obsession with ritual and form at the expense of interiority and substance. Our entire concept of salvation is investing in heaven. The "investing" is completely literal: People who donate to the building of churches and charitable works by the Sisters of Mercy imagine themselves exempt from having to live exemplary lives. We hear Mass, go to confession and receive the sacraments, and imagine that, like taking a bath, we are cleansed of our sins, enough to go back to lying, cheating and stealing with a vengeance. We flagellate ourselves during Good Friday, managing to become an episode for Ripley's, and imagine ourselves entitled to commit bloody murder all the other Fridays of the year.

The principle is simple: Form is everything, substance is nothing. Part of it, of course, owes to the friars who bequeathed that mentality to us. But not everything. Spain has freed itself from these shackles, especially after Franco; we haven't. Our fetish for form and ritual permeates everything. We view democracy in exactly the same way we view salvation: So long as we continue to have elections and keep a few civil liberties intact, we have a democracy. Notwithstanding that, as with the last elections, the wrong votes are being counted and, as with the latest executive orders, protest is being snuffed.

What we have is a religion that has little to do with spirituality. You need only look at Archbishop Fernando Capalla to see it. That is what Filipinos being the most religious among all Asians means:

Deeply upright, deeply crooked.

An usurpation of state functions

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SIXTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK, THE FIRST INternational criminal trial for World War II crimes began in Nuremberg with 22 senior Nazi officials, military leaders and industrialists on the dock. Adolf Hitler escaped accountability by shooting himself in his bunker underneath the Reichstag as Russian troops stormed Berlin in 1945.

Although the trial, convened by the four Allied powers (the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union), was a victor's justice, the administration of President Harry Truman impressed upon the US allies the importance of a fair and transparent trial.

Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin, appalled by the enormity of Nazi crimes, preferred summary executions. The chief US prosecutor, Justice Robert Jackson, emphasized the fundamental importance of the legal process in his opening address:

"That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury, stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law is one of the most significant tributes that Power has ever paid to Reason."

Some of the accused went to the gallows, but some observers have commented that "the fact that several defendants were acquitted of some of the charges against them and a few even acquitted altogether is a testament that the Nuremberg trial was not rigged to produce only one possible result."

It is true that the victors determine the terms of retributive justice, but the important thing about the Nuremberg trial is the adherence to procedural fairness of the legal process.

During the past few weeks, we have witnessed in Manila an attempt to exert accountability upon a political leadership that has been accused of stealing a presidential election through the medium of a street tribunal convened by civil society to ascertain the "truth" about the allegations. This tribunal, known as the Citizen's Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA), has been constituted like a court of law, with all the trappings of a tribunal and following its legal procedures.

The CCTA is not, however, administering a victor's justice. It is not set up by winners of political conflict to try the vanquished. It was set up by self-righteous civil society elements who have appointed themselves as the avenging instruments of citizens who, they claim, have been terribly wronged through the stealing of their sovereign right of suffrage. The basis of the claim is what is now known as the "Hello Garci" tapes which purport to show that President Macapagal-Arroyo not only talked with an election commissioner about election matters in 2004 but, worse, attempted to tamper with the poll results.

Unlike the Nuremberg trial, which was convened by victors, the so-called People's Court has no source of legitimacy to make judgments on election cheating or to even just conduct a fact-finding inquiry into the tapes. In reality, the prime movers of the CCTA were political partisans who ended up on the losing side of the electoral contest.

The legitimacy of this congress to undertake an objective search of truth is as flawed as the legitimacy of the government whose right to rule its organizers now challenge and whose removal they seek. The congress is, therefore, no more than a parody of a project to make leaders accused of stealing the election accountable for alleged abuse of power and betrayal of public trust, etc. All it has to back the initiative to enforce accountability of a much-reviled government is sheer gumption.

Aware of its own legitimacy shortcomings, the people behind the CCTA insist that it was created in response to the "public's frustrations" over the suppression of the truth following the dismissal of the impeachment complaint by the House of Representatives. They say it will not hand down a verdict, that it is not a court and is more of a fact-finding commission than a tribunal.

Despite these disqualifications, the CCTA has adopted procedures that mimic those used by the official courts. It has a presidium before which complaints are aired and evidence from witnesses are received.

According to newspaper reports, the congress will receive and weigh evidence that should have been presented in an impeachment trial in the Senate, if the impeachment complaint had not been dismissed by the House. It is assisted in the evaluation by congressmen who were members of the House impeachment team.

An examination of the charges brought to the CCTA shows that they are a replica of the charges contained in the impeachment complaint lodged in the House.

Even a fact-finding effort requires objectivity to be credible and to keep it from being seen as a witch-hunt. Although legal procedures were adopted in the process, to give it a semblance of fairness, these rituals were reduced to a sham by the participation of congressmen who supplied evidence that had been used in the House to back charges of culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust and human rights violations and plunder and corruption.

While talking about fairness and objectivity, the congress selects the witnesses it hears. So far, some of the witnesses include members of the Arroyo Cabinet who broke away from her. If, as claimed, the findings would be submitted to the public and a group named by the convenors themselves, there's no assurance that the proceedings are not being rigged to produce "only one possible result" or conclusion.

In view of these circumstances, the CCTA is nothing short of a demonstration of civil society's seizure and usurpation of state functions.

Breaking out of stereotypes

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S THE CONTINUATION OF A BACKgrounder on the contributions of Filipino women to the local film industry, written in connection with the Feminist Centennial Film Festival opening tonight at the Shangri-La Cineplex.

Featured as part of the filmfest are Philippine documentaries and feature films on women by women, and the "Asia-Pacific and World Panorama" of films on women by women, with the support of various foreign embassies. A "Side Bar" will also show exceptional films on women by men. The film showings will be complemented by special events such as symposia, traveling exhibits in schools and cinemas and provincial tours in Iloilo, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Baguio.

* * *

EVEN the escapist movie-lover in Doña Sisang was not immune from the urge to "tweak" the dominant images of her female stars and present audiences with alternative roles that dared show women other ways of being "woman." What comes quickly to mind is Nida Blanca in a number of romantic comedies opposite her love team partner, Nestor de Villa. While Nestor often portrayed moneyed, urbane and cultured young men, Nida was the hellcat from the "wrong" side of the tracks, clad in jeans, a checkered man's shirt, a baseball cap and rubber shoes who through pluck and vivacity is able to win a gentleman's heart.

The dominant "alternative" to the socially acceptable and desirable female image, though, was that of the *contrabida* or villainess. And no one could do villainy better than Rosa Rosal, who, though pitted against the era's screen sweethearts, nevertheless commanded audience devotion with her strong screen presence. Forever etched in the mind is her portrait in cameo, dressed in basic black accessorized with a string of pearls, a long cigarette holder in her gloved hands, profiled against smoke billowing in the background.

Rosa Rosal it was, too, who dared put her "image" at risk by agreeing to portray women rarely seen in Philippine films at that point. In "Anak Dalita," she was a peasant woman driven to grinding poverty and desperation to the point of bearing the yoke of a tiller on her shoulders. In "Badjao," she even had her *mestiza* features darkened to portray a Muslim princess.

Despite such efforts at breaking out of the dominant stereotypes, though, female representation in the movies remained trapped in clichés and conventions through much of the 1950s to the 1980s. This is how Nick Deocampo describes the particular "circle of hell" for women in Philippine movies:

"Fatalism is a recurring theme and nudity a common practice, particularly in works by male directors that have women as their subjects. Many women characters resign themselves to conditions that appear insurmountable, whence come the stereotypes that have stuck to the image of the Filipino woman—fanatic, prostitute, martyr and eternal victim. In effect, female viewers respond to these images by identifying their own daily travails in the troubles of these characters. Their lives are condemned to the stifling routine of everyday work. Any chance to escape into another reality where their troubles are resolved through wish-fulfillment is welcome. These practices are so deeply entrenched that despite the evolving status women have slowly forged in contemporary society, it is hard to find any major change in their representation in the movies."

* * *

THOUGH there have been female directors and writers since the pre-war era, women filmmakers came into their own in the 1980s, coming up with works that, in Deocampo's words became "an expression of dissent in what appears as a monolithic industry." Writing in the 1980s, Deocampo cites "directors like Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Laurice Guillen, and writers like Marina Feleo-Gonzales and Susana de Guzman whose "voices of female dissent" gave life to the "subject of female consciousness and sensibility."

Deocampo calls particular attention to "'Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo (Once there was a Moth, 1976),' a film made by four strong-willed women on the highly volatile issue of American bases on Philippine soil." Written by Marina Feleo-Gonzales, produced by Digna Santiago for her family's studio Premier Productions, and directed by Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara, the film centers on the character of a nurse (played by Nora Aunor who was then enjoying the height of her popularity and maturing as a performer) who wants to work in America but changes her mind when her brother is shot by an American soldier while scavenging in a military base. (Unforgettable is Nora's acting "moment," when, after hearing the soldier claim he mistook her brother for a pig, she rants at him: "My brother is not a pig! My brother is not a pig!")

"For their courage in commenting on the sensitive issue of the neo-colonial ties between America and the Philippines, these women put to shame even the most macho among male directors, whose works on similar themes are smothered in commercial compromises and political apologias," declares Deocampo.

In the contemporary era, or at least since the 1980s, Lualhati Bautista has emerged as the foremost feminist writer in Philippine movies. Her most successful efforts have been the scripts based on her two finest novels: "Bata, Bata Paano ka Ginawa?" and "Dekada '70," written during the turbulent martial law period and exploring women's complex lives lived out against the dark background of political repression.

Filipino women in films seeking to break out of the stereotype also found support and collaboration from male colleagues who shared a similar desire to expand the creative horizons of filmmakers and raise uncomfortable questions about the relations between men and women in Philippine society.

(To be concluded)

Nakpil's notes on the Revolution

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NOVEMBER 30 IS FAST APPROACHING, LEADing us to remember Andres Bonifacio, the Katipunan and the Philippine Revolution. Since I have been writing this column for quite some time now, I'm hard-pressed to find something new for Bonifacio Day.

This year, I started the search for something fresh in the notes of Julio Nakpil, a composer and revolutionary who married Gregoria de Jesus, widow of Bonifacio. These handwritten annotations seem to have come about when Nakpil read Teodoro M. Kalaw's book "The Philippine Revolution." In the process, he was not only commenting on the book, but going through his memory and writing things down—basically, a lot of stray information, details that can make us understand what it was like to live in those days. For example, while writing about the bravery of Feliciano Jocson, he mentions the shortage of arms:

"Disguised as a woman [Jocson] went back and forth from Manila to the revolutionary camp clandestinely carrying sheet brass for the making of cartridges for Remington and Mauser rifles, and at other times saltpeter for the manufacture of gunpowder, which, in order to mislead the Spanish authorities, he placed in demijohns as if it were wine."

It is interesting to note here that saltpeter was used to make gunpowder in those days, because today we find more peaceful uses for it. It is now one of the main ingredients in pork *tocino*. When we read about the Revolution, it would be helpful to remember that the shortage of arms was so severe that the revolutionaries had to make home-made gunpowder and bullets from all types of metal, including confiscated church bells.

More fascinating was how Jocson tried to build morale among his ill-equipped fighting men:

"In order to raise the spirit of those in Manila, he spread the news that firearms and munitions were abundant in the revolutionary camp, while the truth was, there were only seven (7) Remingtons with a few cartridges. This was what I saw when I arrived in Balara on November 2, 1896."

The shortage of arms was so severe that the revolutionaries had to make home-made gunpowder and bullets from all types of metal, including confiscated church bells

Surely, a few more guns were available at the outbreak of the revolution, either bought or taken forcibly through *agaw armas*. We also learn from Nakpil that there were some funny episodes in those dark days. These two anecdotes concern Fr. Pedro Dandan:

"At the time when clandestine leaflets and booklets were circulating in Manila attacking the reputation of the friars, the works most widely read were 'La vision de fray Rodriguez' [by Rizal] and 'Dasalan at tocsohan' [by Marcelo H. del Pilar]. One day, Fr. Dandan placed such a leaflet on the sly inside the sleeve of the archbishop's vestments before he celebrated Mass. At the moment he said *'Dominus vobiscum'* [The Lord be with you], extending both arms in the form of a cross and then bringing them down, Rizal's booklet dropped. Surprised, the bishop asked Fr. Dandan to find out what it was. He picked it up from the floor and said to the archbishop, *'Librito po among na gawa ni Rizal galing sa langit* (A booklet written by Rizal that dropped from Heaven Father).'"

I did not find the above episode very funny, but the next one is more promising and can probably be used by someone facing arrest today:

"One Sunday, after saying Mass [in the days before the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution of 1896], Fr. Dandan went home to take breakfast and prepare to join the revolutionists. Standing in the vestibule of the apartment where he lived, which adjoined Quiapo church on San Pedro Street [now Evangelista], he met the detective policeman who had come to arrest him and asked, 'Is Fr. Dandan here?' Then Fr. Dandan himself answered: 'Yes, he is upstairs eating breakfast as he has just arrived.' And without losing time [or making the detective suspicious], he climbed into the same vehicle that had brought the policeman and drove to the revolutionary camp together with Sixto Celis and his two sons in order to join the undersigned [J. Nakpil]. This is a true story as it was told me by Fr. Dandan himself about January 1897 in a place near Balara."

Today, J. Nakpil is hardly remembered, except for a busy Malate street lined with chic bars and restaurants that bear his name. Few people know about the composer of the Revolution, the man who could have left more notes and anecdotes that would spice up any historical lecture or reading.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Naked sabotage

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

BACK IN THE DAYS OF THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP, Imelda Marcos "beautified" her City of Man (Metro Manila) by building perimeter walls around squatter colonies.

Life's become more complicated since then. The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is pouring in P100 million to "beautify" what they call an "investor's route," improving and cleaning up roads leading to and from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, in an attempt to impress foreign visitors.

And for us the natives, we get billboards with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo smiling sternly and warning: "Pook na Bulok, Negosyo di Papasok (Business won't go into rotten places)."

Economic sabotage

The signs have been up a few months now, and I've wondered what government's definition is of "rotten." Now we have the answer in the form of an MMDA directive, banning the public display of laundry, shirtless men and public drinking sprees. "Sabotage," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is quoted as describing these forms of rotten behavior.

Hmmm. . .that's a really new take on economic sabotage, this business of naked drinking men and dirty laundry.

Let's look first at this business of drinking in public. A few weeks back, I wrote about a Chinese regional magazine (the Chinese Asiaweek) featuring Filipinos as the happiest people on earth. One "proof" they presented? There was a photograph accompanying that story showing a bunch of men drinking . . . yes, out in the street, while flood waters swirled around reaching almost up to their knees.

The Asiaweek photographer and writer, presumably Chinese, probably saw this as quaint. The MMDA recoils, calling it economic sabotage. I see it as the result, rather than a cause of economic sabotage: a country that can't generate enough jobs for its people, with the result the women have to slave away with all kinds of informal jobs, while the men toast their woes away.

The laundry out in the streets? I see that, too, as the result of economic sabotage. All around Asia I see governments pouring in money to low-cost housing. Just last week, I was in Malaysia where people earning less than 1,500 ringgit (P22,500) a month can avail themselves of government housing units at the equivalent of P3,000 a month.

Yes, that would make many UP professors eligible, but that's another story. My point is that in the Philippines, government housing money has been pilfered, so people have to live in shanties. When there's hardly enough living space in the first place, where do you think people are going to hang out their laundry?

'Bastos'

We go now to the shirtless machos. The MMDA ordinance is directed against men who are not just strutting around in the streets but even in construction sites, presumably offending the sensibilities of would-be investors.

All over the world, you see shirtless men out in the streets. In cold countries, the slightest hint of a sunny day brings out men who will bask, shirtless, on park benches. As for construction workers, many countries have safety regulations requiring a whole bunch of protective gear, which means the workers will keep their shirts on while working, but during breaks, especially on a summer day, the shirts will come off.

Offensive? I know my slip's showing, but I think the shirtless men can be quite delightful, even a tourist attraction. Brazil's a notorious example, where women and men, young and old, have no qualms about standing around in public half-naked. The foreigners stare, but for the Brazilians—well, it's all as normal as having a shirt on.

It's all in the eye of the beholder, whether we interpret these scenes as *bastos* (obscene) or not, as I wrote in a column a few months back. In many parts of Asia, we allow different degrees of nakedness. In Tagalog, we even distinguish *hubo* and *hubad*, the former referring to the Oblation statues at UP campuses, and the latter to being exposed from the waist up.

Obscenity isn't related so much to the square inches of skin that's exposed than the context of exposure. A shirtless man out in the streets, often someone scratching away at his beer belly, is about as sensuous as *hubad na lumpia* (a spring roll with vegetables "exposed"), but in a dimly lit bedroom—now, that's another matter.

A few years ago, there was a Hong Kong woman who went to court over the matter of shirtless construction workers, claiming she found them offensive. The court ruled against her. Freudian psychologists will probably speculate about the sexually repressed feelings behind the woman's lawsuit, as well as the beautification campaigns of Imelda Marcos and the MMDA.

Eyes and heart

Conscious about the eyes of the beholder, let's review that MMDA ordinance on naked economic sabotage.

The dirty laundry in public? I'd worry more about potential investors seeing the long queues of urban poor women and children trying to get water for their laundry and other household needs.

The half-naked men? I had an American woman visitor recently, and she was, to say the least, awed by Bench's larger-than-life billboard ads for men's underwear, the models precariously teasing the boundaries between *hubad* and *hubo*.

Potential investors will marvel at the market for underwear, but will also look for signs of economic activity in construction sites and infrastructure projects. And as they catch glimpses of the workers, it won't matter whether they have shirts on or not. I worry more about the visitors seeing workers—often completely clothed—just sitting by chatting or ogling at women passersby, a billboard behind them proclaiming the site as a government project, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo beaming away and promising the project completion date—some time back in 2004.

The drinking sessions? What matters isn't whether it's done in private or public, with shirts on or off. What's obscene is when the men are jobless and perpetually idle, using their wives' or mothers' hard-earned money and the government having nothing to offer them, except promises of more overseas jobs.

All said, shouldn't we be asking why government is cracking down on the shirtless drinking men while busing in tourists to the bars of Pasay and Angeles where they can go on drinking sprees while gawking at our women as they strip down—and more?

Nothing, too, can be more obscene, more symptomatic of our social rot, than the droves of children sent out to the streets to sell sampaguita at midnight and, these days, knocking on car windows with a "Meri Krismas," an ill-disguised way of begging even as their President claims, in a speech before the UN General Assembly, that we don't need family planning, that development will eventually eradicate poverty.

We worry too much about what's public, what's visible to the eye. Let's worry a bit more, as a nation, about what's in our heart—if we still have it.

Let's go for waste-free Southeast Asian Games

THE 23RD SOUTHEAST ASIAN Games (SEAG) offers a unique opportunity for the whole nation to unite and shine as a people who care not only for gold medals but also for the health of our exhausted planet.

We add our voice to the ongoing drive, spearheaded by the Ecological Waste Coalition and the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee, to get the people involved in making the SEAG venues, especially Luneta, waste-free.

A similar effort by the Korea Zero Waste Movement Network during the 2002 World Cup in South Korea succeeded in reducing waste by 43 percent in some 10 football sites. We believe we can also do this here.

As athletes, we find it indispensable for our children and youth to grow and live in clean, safe and healthy communities to keep their minds and bodies fit and strong. It therefore makes a lot of sense to carry out measures to prevent pollution, so as not to poison the environment.

Studies have shown that the unhealthy practice of waste dumping and burning yields persistent organic pollutants and other toxics that can cause cancer and other serious health problems.

We also know that dumping or burning wipe out valuable materials that can be repaired, reused or recycled to conserve and protect the remaining resources of our badly worn-out forests, mountains, rivers and seas.

We ask our fellow athletes and the various teams and associations to take the lead in reducing waste volume and ensure that nothing is wasted at their quarters and playing areas.

We ask the local government units and managers of sport venues to provide clearly marked bins for biodegradable and nonbiodegradable discards, and to assign SEAG staff and volunteers to ensure proper waste segregation.

We ask our friends in the mass media to extend their valued support in informing and educating our people about the steps and benefits of managing our waste resources in a way that will not endanger public health and spoil the environment.

We ask our people to rally behind a waste-free SEAG and, together, work for a clean and healthy environment for our communities and for the Filipino youth and children.

Panalo ang bayan kung di talo ang kapaligiran. Mabuhay ang SEAG!

—MONSOUR DEL ROSARIO
AND 6 OTHER SEAG
AMBASSADORS, c/o Philsoc,
PICC Secretariat Bldg., Pasay City

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Who is the true hero?

FRONT-PAGE NEWS: ATENEO HONORS ITS living and dead heroes! For the first time in the history of Ateneo, four Ateneo students were enshrined as heroes. Conspicuously absent from the list was my great friend Edgar Jopson, a true hero of the Philippine Revolution, as shown in his biography "Edjop," written by another Atenean, Benjamin Pimentel.

Ed was gunned down by military troopers during a raid on an underground safe house in Davao City on Sept. 20, 1982. He was by then a ranking leader of the National Democratic Front and one of the most wanted men in the country, with a P180,000-price on his head.

Why was Ed Jopson absent from the list? Fr. Romeo Intengan was also honored in the same memorial, but as a "living hero, for his contribution to the resistance against martial law." Edjop must have turned in his grave, wondering with a smile: only in Ateneo can you become a hero before you have given up your life.

It would have been fitting, and certainly heroic, for Intengan to have offered his place among the honorees to Edjop, even if Ed was a Natdem and his "communist" rival in the struggle for liberation. Ed would have appreciated if his wife and children had stood among the proud representatives of the deceased heroes. For sure, a lost opportunity for Intengan and Ateneo as well.

—ARNOLD VAN VUGT,
Horeb Center, P.O. Box 237,
Cagayan de Oro City

RP still bird flu-free, focuses on prevention

THE EDITORIAL, "SITTING DUCKS," (PDI, 11/12/05) has raised many concerns on the government's efforts to protect the country from the bird flu virus.

We would like to inform the public that the country's defense system against bird flu works under the Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP). Under this program, a National Avian Influenza Task Force (NAITF), the inter-agency, multi-sectoral body implementing the AIPP, was organized two years ago when bird flu outbreaks were recorded in many Asian countries. The NAITF continuously updates itself on related developments through consultations with various government agencies, private sector groups, poultry veterinarians and health experts. The AIPP is organized according to four scenarios: Stage 1—Keeping the Philippines Bird Flu-Free; Stage 2—Control and Eradication of AI Infection in Domestic Poultry; Stage 3—Transmission from Domestic Poultry to Humans; Stage 4—Transmission from Human to Human (Pandemic).

We are still in Stage 1, as the Philippines remains a bird flu-free country. But global concerns are now focused on prevention as the deadly virus might mutate and be transmitted to humans. In the wake of these developments, Agriculture Secretary Domingo F. Panganiban has strengthened the NAITF, by involving more government agencies in the program. A nationwide training workshop, dubbed Project Blue, was started this November to be held in 37 provinces which have been identified as priority areas for bird flu prevention. Eight fully trained government-private sector teams will be conducting the training and education campaigns.

There are determined efforts both by government and the private sector to rise up to the challenge. The fact that the country remains bird flu-free is already an achievement. But let us hope that we can all be united to keep the Philippines a bird flu-free country.

—RUBEN J. PASCUAL,
co-coordinator,
National Avian Influenza Task Force (NAITF),
Department of Agriculture,
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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

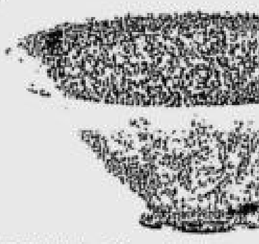
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Stoneware thrives in Sagada

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

SAGADA native Ardeth Angway, who works as registrar of St. Mary's School, says pottery taught her "patience, enjoyment, dedication to work." SIEGRID BANGYAY

JAR by Lope Bosaing. OMPONG TAN



BOWL by Siegrid Bangyay. OMPONG TAN

WITH NO POTTERY TRADITION to speak of, the mountain resort town of Sagada in Mt. Province has a thriving ceramic center with recently trained potters who took an immediate liking to shaping objects and displayed an ability to cross the line from craft to art.

Potters Ardeth Angway, Tessie Baldo, Siegrid Bangyay and Lope Bosaing have a show until Dec. 4 at The Breathing Space, a café-gallery on Session and Assumption roads in Baguio City. The walls carry Sagada photographs taken by Tommy Hafalla, Eliza Consul, Ompong Tan and Joachim Voss.

Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog, who raised a toast of rice wine to the exhibitors, said, "Officialdom should be present on occasions like this to encourage our people to engage in economic enterprises. Pottery is creating an impact on Sagada. Tourists and local people alike buy items, the locals preferring the jars for the *tapuy*."

Dalog lent the provincial government's pickup trucks to haul down the stoneware from Sagada to Baguio without any reported breakage.

Bosaing, 40, the more senior of the group in terms of experience, encourages other people to join the Sagada Ceramics Center with its kiln in Barangay Danunoy. "We can keep it alive by getting people from other parts of the Cordillera," he said.

He cited their experience in Kibungan, Benguet, where they shared their skills. Now, the place has its own small kiln.

Bosaing's rice jars, bowls, teapots and jugs are unique in their pine ash glaze. He smokes meat, then gathers the ashes and recycles them, mixing them with the clay from Sagada.

"You can say there is a little salt from salted meat in my works," he smiled.

He considers pottery his hobby. His main job is running a small inn, store and gallery that carries—what else— pottery, paintings, weavings and carvings of local people. Sometimes he swaps his pots with the handmade baskets of people from Bangaan in northern Sagada.

Angway, 24, trained under Uncle Lope, her cousin Siegrid and Archie Stapleton, an American potter who grew up in Sagada in the 1960s.

She felt amazed at the things her teachers could do so she thought of trying pottery thrice a week after her work as registrar of St. Mary's School.

Enjoyment

The craft taught her "patience, enjoyment, dedication to work." She has been able to make plates, flower vases, bowls and cups in the colors of blue, green, coffee and a white and green combination.

The first time her bowls were pulled out of the oven, she couldn't stop smiling. She lovingly wrapped the objects and carried them like fragile babies down the slippery and muddy road to her house.

The BS Environmental Science graduate of the Benguet State University considers pottery her return to nature, and devotes the hours (5-9 p.m. on weekdays and 1-5 p.m. on Sundays) to her newfound love.

Bangyay, 26, worked under Stapleton, but then she was paid to do the wedging. She wasn't fully into it yet.

A commerce graduate of the former Baguio Colleges Foundation (now University of the Cordilleras), she was working in a mind-numbing job as encoder-verifier of a preneed company. "It wasn't challenging. I faced the computer from eight to 10 hours a day."

When she decided to return to pottery, she found "working with nature the best thing." She wasn't at all scared by the risks inherent in pottery like breakage and not getting the right glaze she liked.

Patience

What she learned was "patience, an attitude that I'm applying in life." Her patience can stretch from two-and-a- half weeks to a month, waiting for just a couple of teacups to dry since it is often rainy in Sagada. The first bisque firing takes 12 hours and the glaze firing, 16 hours.

Nevertheless, she loves the feel of clay in her hands. "Even if things break, you get addicted. You get to love experimenting. When the glaze is successful, you're exceedingly pleased."

Baldo, 47, only learned pottery in June last year while working as a buyer of potters' produce. She was a housewife who also did data collecting for the field research of a Canadian anthropologist.

Fascinating

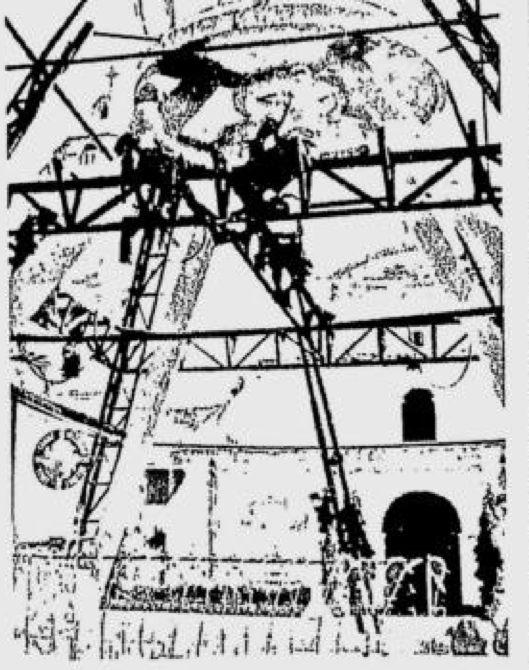
She found touching clay "fascinating. You play with clay and it becomes a very precious feeling. You forget your problems. You're lightened and enlightened."

She began with small stuff (bowls, mugs, candleholders, jars) and can't wait to work on bigger things.

Like the others, she credits pottery with instilling patience. "We're patient about drying time, about having to bear everything if you want to produce something nice. We know exactly when the pot is dry. We scratch it the way you scratch a cell phone card. We use our fingernails. If the pot is white, then it's dry. If it's brown, it's still wet."

Expo revives Candon's rich cultural heritage

By Frank Cimatu
Candon City



THE "CROWN of the King Gate" of Candon Church was turned into the base of the bamboo replica of the Eiffel Tower, similar to what Candonians did 113 years ago during the Primera Feria Exposicion de la Provincia de Ilocos Sur. LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

MOST TOWNS IN THE ILOCOS region are now putting up their huge Christmas trees, but a different structure is shaping up at the gate of the Candon Church in Ilocos Sur.

It is a replica of the famous Eiffel Tower made entirely of bamboo.

"We are building this in deference to what our forefathers did 113 years ago," said Mayor Allen Singson.

In 1892, Candon hosted the Primera Feria Exposicion de la Provincia de Ilocos Sur. It showcased the best that Ilocandia could offer then and gave Filipinos a glimpse of how "cultured" the Ilocanos were then.

The bamboo Eiffel Tower, the crowd drawer of the exposition, had a musical band playing on the first floor. At night, it was illuminated with lanterns.

Singson said 2,000 lanterns would be paraded and later hung on the tower. A rondalla of blind musicians would be playing at the base.

Although much had been written about the 1892 Candon Exposition, it was only when INQUIRER columnist Bambi Harper wrote about it in June that Candon officials decided to present a reenactment of the exposition.

Rich heritage

"We want to bring back Candon's reputation as a major trading and cultural center of the North. We have a rich heritage we wanted the world to know," said Grace Gacula Singson, the exposition chair.

On Dec. 1-8, the plaza will be brought back in time. Old houses, including the former house of local revolutionary hero Isabelo "Don Belong" Abaya, will be transformed into a museum of artifacts and photographs of that glorious time.

What were sold and displayed 113 years ago will be shown in booths made of nipa. These will include Ilocano blankets, indigo, special rice, potatoes from Benguet, knives, Ilocano books and even gold ores from Mankayan, Benguet. Candon used to be the trading center of the Ilocano and Igorot peoples.

Famed Ilocano tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, soprano Rachelle Girodias, and baritone Noel Azcona will lead the all-star classical cast that will perform on Dec. 2. They will be playing with Singson's grandmother, Minervina Dario Singson, who recently launched her album of Ilocano songs titled "Candon."

On Dec. 1, Candon-born Greg Centeno and Baguio City's Eros Goze and Dan de Lima will feature their modern renditions of the Ilocano *baro* and *saya* in a multimedia show at the compound of the Candon Church.

Mayor Singson said the exposition was not only important culturally but also historically.

Most of those who won gold and silver medals during the 1892 fair would later be arrested by the Spaniards for continuing the Katipunan in the North.

Singson said the reenactment would become a yearly affair.

IKAW AT ANG SSS

Questions & Answers
on Social Security

Maternity Benefit

What is the maternity benefit?

The maternity benefit is a daily cash allowance granted to a female member who was unable to work due to childbirth or miscarriage.

What are the qualifications for entitlement to the maternity benefit?

1. She has paid at least three monthly contributions within the 12-month period immediately preceding the semester of her childbirth or miscarriage.
2. She has given the required notification of her pregnancy through her employer if employed, or to the SSS if separated, voluntary or self-employed member.

How much is the maternity benefit?

The maternity benefit is equivalent to 100 per cent of the member's average daily salary credit multiplied by 60 days for normal delivery or miscarriage, 78 days for caesarean section delivery.

How many deliveries are covered under existing laws?

The maternity benefit shall be paid only for the first four (4) deliveries or miscarriages starting May 24, 1997 when the Social Security Act of 1997 (RA8282) took effect.

Can a member apply for sickness benefit if she has been paid the maternity benefit?

No. A female member cannot claim for sickness benefit for a period of 60 days for normal delivery or miscarriage or 78 days for caesarean delivery within which she has been paid the maternity benefit. As a rule, no member can be entitled to two benefits for the same period.

Is it necessary to notify the SSS of a member's pregnancy?

Yes. As soon as a member becomes pregnant, she must immediately notify her employer (if employed) or the SSS (if separated/voluntary/self-employed) of such pregnancy and the probable date of her childbirth at least 60 days from the date of conception by accomplishing SSS FORM MAT-1 (Maternity Notification Form) and by submitting proof of pregnancy.

The employer must, in turn, notify the SSS through the submission of the maternity notification form and proof of pregnancy immediately after the receipt of the notification from the employee member.

Failure to observe the rule on notification may result to the denial of the maternity claim.

How would the claimant be paid the maternity benefit?

For employed members - the benefit is advanced by the employer to the qualified employee, in full, within 30 days from the date of filing of the maternity leave application. The SSS, in turn, shall immediately reimburse the employer 100 per cent of the amount of maternity benefit advanced to the female employee upon receipt of satisfactory proof of such payment and legality thereof.

If the employee member gives birth or suffers miscarriage without the required contributions having been remitted by the employer, or the employer fails to notify the SSS resulting to denial of the claimof the employee, the employershall have no right to recover the corresponding amount of benefit he has advanced to to the employee member.

For separated/voluntary/self-employed members - the amount of benefit is paid directly to them by the SSS.

Where must the member file her application?

1. *For employed and separated members* - application forms may be filed at the SSS branch where the employer and employee records are based.
2. *For voluntary/self-employed members* - application forms may be filed at any SSS branch nearest the member's residence or where her record is based.

For more information visit the SSS office nearest you or call 924-3465 or 435-9835 or e-mail at member_relations@sss. gov.ph,

Kabalikat mo sa buhay!

Fax to: 924-3465 or 435-9835 or Mail to: Member Relations Dept., Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City

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Address:
Tel. No.:

Inquiry ☐ Suggestion

Use separate sheet, if necessary

SSS 2003-18

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Mayor vows to stop Lafayette mining

By Blanche S. Rivera

PROMISES UNKEPT HAVE PUSHED THE PRO-mining mayor of Rapu-Rapu Island, site of the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Project and recently, two mine spills, to seek Malacañang's intervention in closing down the foreign-funded mining project.

Rapu-Rapu Mayor Dick Galicia signed on Monday a municipal resolution asking President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to revoke the environmental compliance certificate issued to Lafayette Philippines Inc.

Galicia said Lafayette had deliberately fooled the people of Rapu-Rapu when it assured them the firm would use the best technology to ensure the protection of the fragile ecosystem of the 5,000-hectare island.

Lafayette also secured tax exemptions, contrary to a promise it had given the municipal government that the mining firm's taxes would give Rapu-Rapu enough revenues to turn it from a fourth class to a first class municipality.

"I used to be pro-Lafayette, but because of what happened to us, I'm going to stand up against it ... We will find a way to get them out of the island," Galicia told the INQUIRER during an interview in Quezon City Monday.

Galicia said Rapu-Rapu would get only two percent of the gross earnings from the mine operations, instead of the 35 percent in corporate taxes it should have received if Lafayette had not worked to have the island proclaimed as a special economic zone.

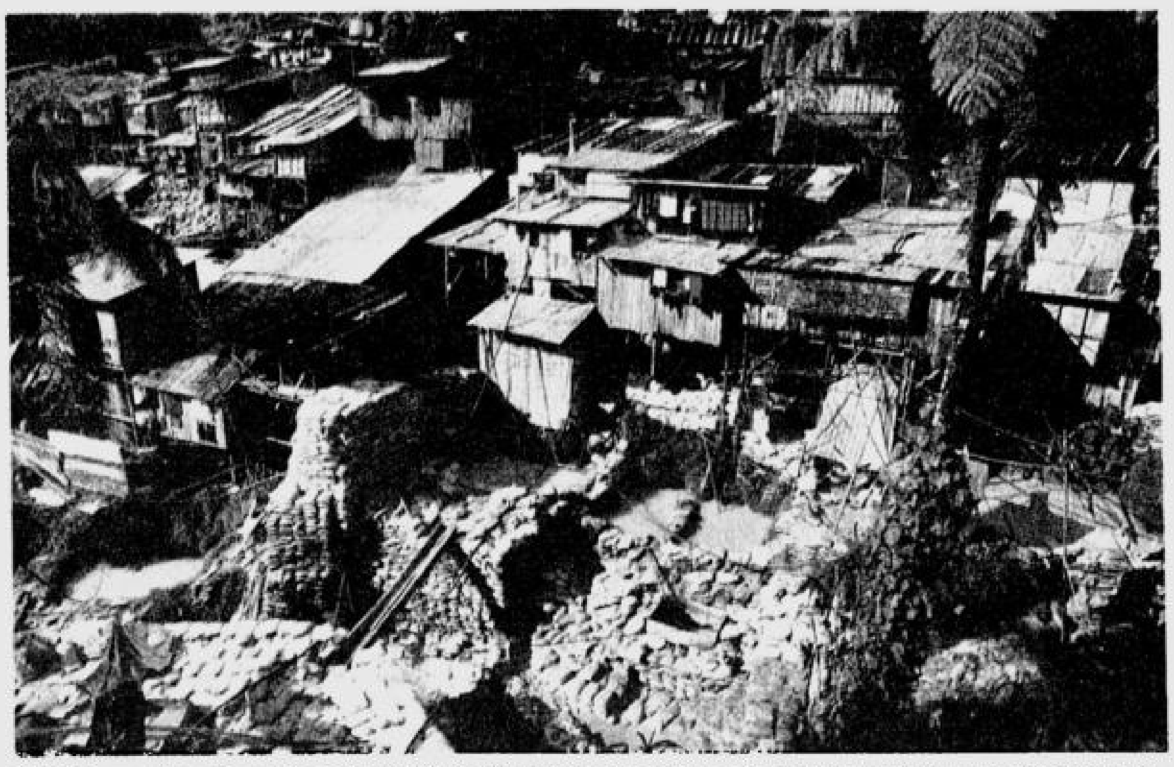
He said Lafayette even refused to disclose how much gold it has processed or sold in its four months of operation. Galicia had summoned an accountant of the mining firm who said she did not know the figures.

"When I saw the mine spills, I knew we would get nothing out of this (project)," Galicia said.

The municipal council's resolution expressed "disgust over the anomalous and irregular manner" by which Lafayette accomplished the proclamation of the island as an ecozone, allowing it be tax-exempt for at least five years.

The resolution would be submitted to the President, the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice, the DENR, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and senators.

Rodel Batocabe, president of the Cagraray Environmental Protection and Development Foundation, said Lafayette, a subsidiary of Australian mining giant Lafayette Mining Ltd., was giving Australian mining firms a bad reputation because of what it had done in Rapu-Rapu.



BIRD'S eye view of a mining community in Mt. Diwalwal in Compostela Valley, which was rocked recently by the deaths of dozens of miners in a tunnel explosion.

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2 groups fight over holding of flower festival

By Donna Demetillo
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

ITIGIL NA YANG GANTIHAN !

BAGUIO CITY—THE rule of law is fast becoming everybody's catch phrase these days. Yet, varying interpretations of the law has divided the country even more.

In the city, the rule of law has stripped the biggest festival here of its festive spirit. Next year, tourists may find themselves enjoying two festivals instead of one.

Two contending groups, one backed by Mayor Braulio Yaranon and the other by city councilors, are now planning separately for the annual Panagbenga Flower Festival to be held in February next year.

Yaranon has designated the Baguio Panagbenga Flower Festival Association Inc. (BPFFAI), headed by local businesswoman Nelia Cid, as the festival's organizer following a resolution by the city council to return the festival to the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation (BFFF), the original organizing body of the flower fest.

Mayor's veto

The resolution, however, was vetoed by Yaranon.

"To our honest judgment the 2005 Panagbenga was successfully staged under the management of the Baguio Panagbenga Flower Festival Association Inc., a purely private organization," said Yaranon in his veto.

"Funds received and disbursed, all from private sources, have been liquidated, accounted for, and duly audited, and are a matter of public record," he said.

The mayor's veto was subsequently overridden by the city council. Yaranon said powerful officials were behind the BFFF during the previous festivals and were using these to control their funding operations.

He said keeping the festival under the management of the BPFFAI ensures transparency of all transactions.

"The Local Government Code, particularly Article 108, is very clear. The mayor can't do anything but to respect our overriding vote. We are bound to respect the law as a city council," Councilor Daniel Fariñas said during the body's weekly deliberations during which the Panagbenga festival management was returned to the BFFF.

The BFFF, which has accepted the council's offer, is now starting preparations for the festival.

Before 2003, the festival was run and organized by the John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. and the BFFF. However, the management was turned over to the city government by the BFFF after then Mayor Bernardo Vergara was named overall chair of the festival's executive committee.

City Hall also asked to be given the lead role in the festival's preparations.

Graft

Reports of graft and corruption among city officials and Panagbenga organizers prompted Yaranon to shift the management of and preparations for the Panagbenga to the private sector in 2005. Thus the BPFFAI was formed.

The BPFFAI has been criticized by city councilors for its alleged poor conduct of this year's festival. A financial report submitted by the BPFFAI revealed deficits and liabilities amounting to P1 million.

The BPFFAI also failed to pay cash prizes to winners of various contests during the festival. "It (Panagbenga) can't be run by an organization that hasn't proven its competence," Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia said.

"P2.5 million in two years is better than a deficit," Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia said, referring to the income generated from the Panagbenga in 2003 and 2004.

Release eng'r, execs appeal

LIBUNGAN, NORTH Cotabato—Local officials and the wife of kidnap victim engineer Bravick Araral have issued an appeal to abductors to free him soon.

Police said the abductors belonged to the Pentagon kidnap for ransom gang operating in Central Mindanao.

"Poor, weak, frail and nursing a hypertension," was how Libungan Mayor Ronaldo Pader described Araral, a 69-year-old engineer who was taken by kidnappers at around 7:45 a.m. on Monday in Barangay Baguer.

"Please free him, he is weak, he is taking medicine daily," Pader quoted the victim's wife, Linda, in an interview over radio station dxMS in Cotabato City.

Senior Insp. Eldy Magbanua, Libungan police chief, said Araral was not in the list of "kidnappables" in Libungan whom the police have given security escorts.

Pader said the victim has been regularly going to his farm and has even formed a farmers' cooperative.

"He has no known enemies. He is friendly and has been advocating for the rights of farmers, especially on irrigation matters," he said.

Araral had just arrived in his rice farm in Barangay Baguer when about 10 gunmen flagged down his Nissan Pathfinder vehicle and ordered him to stay at the back seat.

One of the suspects drove the vehicle from Libungan to Midsayap to Datu Piang, Maguindanao where the vehicle was found abandoned.

Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Negrenses urge meet on Cha-cha

BACOLOD CITY—A multi-sectoral group opposed to Charter change through a Constituent Assembly criticized the Constitutional Commission (Concom) for postponing indefinitely consultations on Charter change here.

Rodolfo Alvarez, of the Negrenses United Against Constituent Assembly, said it was not likely that the ConCom would hold consultations for Negrenses anymore since they have a self-imposed deadline to complete their findings by Dec. 15.

"It is highly improbable that they will still come for the desired consultation, perhaps they are afraid that they will be met with views and sentiments contrary to the conclusions that they have made," he said.

"The entire ConCom process does not conform to tried and tested democratic consultations," he said.

He appealed to Negros Occidental congressmen to hold consultations with their constituents to get their views on Charter change.

"It is, after all, their obligation so they can properly represent the true sentiments of their constituents," he said.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 2005-37
11 November 2005

SUBJECT : RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE ISSUANCE OF DOTC/LTO AUTHORIZATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE PRIVATE EMISSION TESTING CENTERS (PETCs) IT PROVIDERS AND MONITORING OF PETCs and PETC IT PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21 (B) of Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999", DOTC is mandated to implement the emission standards for motor vehicles as provided in the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, authorize private emission testing centers (PETC) duly accredited by DTI, and formulate with DTI, a national motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program that will promote efficient and safe operation of all motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the said Act, DOTC and DTI issued on July 11, 2001, their Joint Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2001, providing for the Guidelines for Accreditation and Authorization of Motor Vehicle Emission Testing Centers;

WHEREAS, DOTC issued on November 24, 2003, Department Order No. 2004-01, providing for the Rules and Regulations Concerning the Issuance of DOTC/LTO Authorization of Motor Vehicle Private Emission Testing Centers;

WHEREAS, PETCs were required under DOTC DO No. 2004-01 to sign Information Technology (IT) Provider Contract Agreement and through PETC Information Technology (IT) Providers, to upload emission test results, online and real-time, to the DOTC/LTO IT System, to assure the integrity of the emission test results;

WHEREAS, DOTC earlier issued Memorandum Circular No. 2003-1, on June 11, 2003, adopting the LTO Proposal to Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the PETC Information Management System;

WHEREAS, to date, not all of the LTO considered proposals have been effected to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the PETC Information Management System (the "PETC System"), including its integration or interconnection with the DOTC/LTO IT System, and neither have proper qualifications and regulations been adopted with respect to PETC IT Providers, thereby giving rise to various deficiencies;

WHEREAS, in order to address the foregoing deficiencies, which are contributory to the continued proliferation of fraudulently issued Certificates of Emission Compliance ("CEC") or non-compliance by PETCs with the existing pertinent rules and regulations, DOTC issued on October 11, 2005, Department Order No. 2005-34, prescribing the amendments to Section 7.5 (IT Requirement) of Department Order No. 2004-01; and,

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to optimize the performance of the PETC System in conjunction with the DOTC/LTO IT System by regulating, maximizing and monitoring the role of PETCs and PETC IT Providers towards that end.

NOW, THEREFORE, above premises considered, the following rules and regulations governing the issuance of DOTC/LTO authorization of PETC I.T. Providers are hereby prescribed and promulgated for the compliance, information and guidance of all concerned.

1.0 SCOPE

1.1. This Department Order (the "DO") promulgates the rules and regulations for the implementation of the:

1.1.1 Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the "The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999";

1.1.2 DTI-DOTC Joint Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2001, providing for the Guidelines for the Accreditation and Authorization of Motor Vehicle Emission Testing Centers (the "Joint AO");

1.1.3 DOTC Department Order No. 2004-01 (as amended), dated November 24, 2003, providing for the Rules and Regulations Concerning the Issuance of DOTC/LTO Authorization of Motor Vehicle Private Emission Testing Centers; and,

1.1.4 DOTC Memorandum Circular No. 2003-1 dated June 11, 2003, adopting the LTO Proposal to Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the PETC Information Management System (the "MC No. 2003-1").

1.2 These rules and regulations describe the objectives, structure, guidelines and procedures designed to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the DOTC/LTO nationwide Authorization Program of the PETCs in general, and the PETC IT Providers in particular.

2.0 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this DO, the capitalized acronyms, words and phrases used in this DO shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the Joint AO, DOTC DO No. 2004-01 and amending DOTC DO No. 2005-34, and the MC-2003-1.

3.0 IT REQUIREMENTS

3.1. All PETCs shall be required to upload the emission test results, online and real-time to the PETC IT Providers. The PETC IT Providers, as aggregators of these various emission test results, are correspondingly required to upload the same data emission test results to the DOTC/LTO IT System also on an online and real-time basis. The emission test results may therefore be validated upon registration of the motor vehicle in any LTO District Office nationwide.

3.2 Interfacing of equipment and the PETC computer or workstation shall be strictly enforced. There will be no human intervention in capturing test results. Likewise, the client program will not have an edit capability to alter or edit test results.

3.3 The PETC System shall not have direct access to the DOTC/LTO IT System's database. This is to protect the integrity of the DOTC/LTO IT System's database.

3.4 An interface service shall enable integration of the PETC IT Providers with the DOTC/LTO IT System, the services and maintenance of which shall be the sole responsibility of the PETC IT Providers, and shall entail no cost to LTO.

3.5 The PETC IT Providers and the DOTC/LTO IT System shall provide audit trails and reports of all the emissions test transactions to DOTC/LTO.

3.6 No PETC and PETC IT Provider, as the case may be, shall be granted any authorization by the Authorization Committee unless the PETC IT Provider has complied, and continues to comply, with the qualifications and requirements stated herein.

4.0 QUALIFICATIONS OF A PETC IT PROVIDER APPLICANT

4.1 Any natural person who is at least eighteen (18) years of age or any juridical person who is not disqualified by any existing law or regulation to engage in vehicle emission testing activity is qualified to apply for authorization, provided, that all the other requirements stated in this DO are complied with.

4.2 No DOTC/LTO personnel, his or her spouse, or relative by consanguinity or affinity within the third (3rd) civil degree shall have ownership of, or a financial interest in, a PETC IT Provider applicant.

5.0 DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

5.1 A duly accomplished application form under oath (See Exhibit "A").

5.2 A certified true copy of the following:

5.2.1 For sole proprietorship, DTI Certificate of Business Name Registration;

5.2.2 For corporations or partnership, the Securities and Exchange Commission's Certificate of Registration of the Articles of Incorporation or Partnership, and Board of Partners' Resolution, issued by the Board Secretary or Managing Partner, specifying the name of the authorized representative who must be an officer of the corporation or partnership.

5.3 Permit to operate business issued by the proper local government unit;

5.4 BIR Registration and TIN;

5.5 SSS Membership Certificate;

5.6 Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years or the pre-operating Financial Statement, whichever is applicable, showing that the owner-applicant shall be in such financial condition as to reasonably expect it to operate for at least one (1) year;

5.7 Location map and layout of the principal office address or operations of the PETC IT Provider, including dimensions;

5.8 Organizational structure showing the relationship between the PETC IT Provider and other operations of the applicant, when applicable and the structure of the PETC IT Provider showing its personnel and their respective functions;

5.9 List of personnel involved with the operation of the PETC IT Provider, including their job descriptions, responsibilities and qualifications;

5.10 List of all equipment, including manuals and reference materials;

5.11 Agreement or Contract Between PETC or PETC IT Provider;

5.12 Agreement or contract granting the PETC IT Provider interconnectivity with the DOTC/LTO IT System;

5.13 Picture of establishment;

5.14 Handling procedure on complaints; and,

5.15 Such other documents or requirements that the DOTC/LTO may require from time to time to protect the interests of the government and the public.

6.0 SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 PETC IT PROVIDER LEVEL

6.1.1 ALL PETC IT Providers must submit to LTO the following:

a. Client Application Users Manual;
b. System set-up and network layout;
c. System Documentation –
    i. Complete description of executable file of the client program;
    ii. System security policy;
    iii. Declaration and list of main application, sub-programs or other files associated with the submitted Client Application; and,
    iv. Screen shots of folder location, file (s) location and size for each and every system file;
d. List of PETC clients with the following descriptions for each –
    i. System set-up and network layout;
    ii. Number of workstations utilized;
    iii. Date of initial installation;
    iv. Last system update done; and,
e. Certificate of Installation of Client Application per PETC.

6.1.2 Screen shots of any third (3rd) party emission test software being used by the Client Program [application location, file (s) and size (s), folder (s)] per PETC.

6.1.3 No access code shall be given to PETCs when Internet or DSL connection fails.

6.1.4 An Incident Report shall be furnished to the DOTC/LTO IT System within twenty-four (24) hours from the date of the occurrence, in the event that the PETC IT Provider fails to upload data in real time.

6.1.5 Uploaders of the PETC IT Provider shall have an automatic synchronization of time and date with the PETC System and the DOTC/LTO-IT System.

6.1.6 In the event that a Client Application be reconfigured so as to make adjustment to the third (3rd) party software being used by the PETC, a screen shot must be submitted to the LTO for eventual re-evaluation, with the corresponding test equipment.

6.1.7 All PETC IT Providers Client Application Program (the "Client Program") shall adhere to the following specifications:

a. The Client Program shall automatically detect the presence or absence of interfaced test machines. No Client Program shall be operating without a test machine being interfaced.
b. The Client Program shall automatically capture test machine reading. Time allowed is not more than five (5) seconds. If this time allocation is exceeded, the test result should be dumped or purged to be unusable, or declared invalid and therefore subject for vehicle re-test.
c. No test result shall be delayed or be resident in the location of the third (3rd) party software for more than two (2) minutes. The Client Program should have an automatic deletion or purging of these unused results if found residing for more than the specified time.
d. No Client Program shall accept entries corrupted or generated using different applications other than the format generated by the third (3rd) party software.
e. The Client Program shall be able to filter same value data of test result that had been earlier uploaded. No previous test result shall be refreshed or re-uploaded.
f. The Client Program shall make an automatic time and date synchronization procedure with the PETC IT Provider main server upon user log-in.
g. The Client Program shall have an automatic time lock of thirty (30) minutes for failed vehicle before it can be re-tested in the same center.
h. No Client Program shall be able to print CEC without any test machine being interfaced.
i. Upon installation of the Client Program, the PETC IT Provider shall ensure that no other Client Program shall be resident on any workstation of a PETC in conflict with any other Client Program.
j. No Client Program must have a reprint module capable of allowing modifications of any information other than CEC number, and shall follow the same expiration date as the original CEC printout.
k. No re-print request shall be authorized if the present date is later than two (2) months from the date and time the vehicle was tested.
l. Client Program should not accept record with blank entries on supposedly mandatory fields.
m. Client Program must have the PETC IT Provider's corporate, partnership or business name with logo or any coded identification that will uniquely identify the PETC IT Provider Client Program.
n. Client Program shall comply with the ruling upload first before printing of CEC.
o. Mobile operations may only be authorized to have a batch upload access with a PC/Lap-top computer if the Client Program being used during said operation has the capability to carry the same Client Program installed at the main branch of the PETC and the PETC IT provider shall certify that it shall carry the same component capability of being able to be interfaced with the test equipment. All mobile operations must be supported by a DTI Accreditation to conduct mobile or fleet emission testing operations.
p. Report generated from the Client Program shall bear necessary information for monitoring, the format of which shall conform with the DOTC/LTO IT System provided format.
q. All Client Programs must follow set data requirements for upload into the DOTC/LTO IT System.

6.1.8 PETC IT Providers must notify in writing LTO of any PETC client that continues to operate despite orders of suspension or closure of operation.

6.1.9 All uploads shall adhere to the twenty-four (24) hours grace period. Time computation for delayed/batched upload shall not be more than twenty-four (24) hours from the date/time the vehicle was tested.

6.1.10 No demo data shall be uploaded to the DOTC/LTO IT System.

6.1.11 No PETC IT Provider shall edit (post-date) the date and time of emission test upon upload to the DOTC/LTO IT System's interface database to make it appear that the test was made within the day and uploaded on real time as required.

6.1.12 The PETC IT Provider's hardware specifications should be able to cater to at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) PETC Emission Tests a day.

6.2 PETC LEVEL

6.2.1 The LTO shall be notified of all system changes made related to a PETCs operation.

6.2.2 If any system or IT-related major problem found in the system occurs during operation of the PETC and the PETC fails to send notice to both its PETC IT Provider and LTO, the PETC shall be considered liable for a violation of the conditions of its authorization.

6.2.3 A notification must be forwarded to LTO of any revision done by the PETC IT Provider on their corresponding Client Program within twenty-four (24) hours thereof.

6.2.4 Any LTO approved back-up Client Program can be used only if its currently registered PETC IT Provider cannot perform its function, and upon prior notification of and approval by the LTO. Otherwise, the ruling of one (1) PETC IT Provider per PETC shall apply.

6.2.5 PETCs should have the following present in their system:

a. All emission test and uploads including picture (upon implementation of web-cam or digicam requirement of the PETC program) shall be maintained for one (1) year after emission test was conducted and shall be retrievable anytime as requested;
b. The approved Client Program of their listed PETC IT Provider with contract of subscription; and,
c. A certification of interfacing submitted and on file, which states that the system was inspected on-site and approved during authorization and/or reauthorization process.

6.2.6 A PETC shall ensure the accuracy of data uploaded, specially the required fields of the DOTC/LTO IT System.

6.2.7 PETC shall upload all vehicle emission test results, namely HC, CO, CO2, O2, and date and time tested.

6.2.8 Real time uploading to the DOTC/LTO IT System shall be strictly imposed.

6.2.9 If a PETC decides to transfer to another PETC IT Provider or add another PETC IT Provider as back-up before its scheduled re-authorization, the PETC is required to undergo re-authorization with its new and/or back-up PETC IT Provider and submit the following documents:

a. Letter of request to transfer;
b. Contract of subscription and certificate of interfacing from the new PETC IT Provider. and,
c. An inspection certification or acknowledgement by LTO that the PETC with the new PETC IT Provider is complying with the D.O.

7.0 HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

The PETC IT Provider shall have the policy and procedure for the resolution of complaints received from PETCs or other parties. Records shall be maintained of all complaints and of the investigations and corrective actions undertaken by the PETC IT Provider.

8.0 FEES AND CHARGES

8.1 For purpose of computing the authorization fees, the classification of enterprises provided in the Joint AO are hereby adopted and made applicable to PETC IT Providers.

8.2 Collection of fees and charges for authorization shall be the responsibility of the LTO-C.O.

9.0 AUTHORIZATION AND MONITORING PROCESS

9.1 The Authorization Process provided under Section 9 of DO No. 2004-01 dated November 24, 2003 (as amended), are hereby adopted and when appropriate, are made applicable for all applications for authorization by PETC IT Provider applicants, *mutatis mutandi*; provided, that all applications for authorization shall be reviewed and evaluated by the LTO-C.O. Authorization Committee, which shall have the same composition as stated in Section 5.3.1 of DO No. 2004-01, for final approval of the authorization by the LTO Assistant Secretary.

9.2 DOTC, through the Office of the Secretary's duly designated Undersecretary and the Secretary's Investigation, Security and Law Enforcement Staff, shall monitor the over-all effective implementation of the PETCs and PETCs IT Providers Programs and compliance of the same by all authorized PETCs and PETC IT Providers pursuant to DOTCs mandate to implement the emission standards for motor vehicles under the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999.

10.0 PENALTIES

10.1 After due notice, DOTC/LTO shall impose, when warranted, any of the following applicable administrative penalties;

a. A fine of not less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (PhP 30,000.00); or,
b. Cancellation of the Certificate of Authorization of the PETC IT Provider, or,
c. Both, as may be determined by DOTC/LTO.

10.2 A pending administrative case shall not bar the filing of appropriate civil or criminal case(s) against the PETC IT Provider.

11.0 REPEALING CLAUSE

Any related orders, issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this DO, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

12.0 EFFECTIVITY

This DO shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

LEANDRO R. MENDOZA
Secretary

(PDI–November 23, 2005)

Farmers urged to spurn chemicals, go organic

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Organic agriculture is fast becoming a global trend but the country's vegetable farmers may yet be the last to shift to the system because they have been "culturally brainwashed" to be dependent on commercial farm inputs, an expert in biodynamic farming said.

"This dependence is the biggest stumbling block in the promotion of organic farming among farmers, thus delaying the improvement of the biodiversity of agricultural farms that would prevent further environmental degradation," Gregory Kitma, president of the Philippine Biodynamic Agricultural Research Foundation Inc. (PBARFI), said.

He said that in organic agriculture, farmers in Benguet, for instance, could drastically cut down on expenses for expensive fertilizers and chemicals while being assured of harvesting products that would be globally competitive.

Kitma rallied vegetable farmers to appreciate organic farming when he keynoted the opening here on Monday of the province's celebration of its 105th foundation day.

He said, however, that adopting organic farming would not be that easy.

"We must first start with a change in the farmers' attitude by letting them grasp the philosophy of the system," Kitma told the INQUIRER.

"Then we create a strong demand in the domestic market for vegetables that are organically produced."

He said the shift to organic farming will become a battleground for multinational corporations which have made farmers market for their commercial farm inputs for so many years.

"Farmers have been brainwashed to believe that they could not raise quality vegetables without using commercial fertilizers, pesticides or insecticides," Kitma said.

The use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has been blamed by some for increased toxicity of soil and hazardous runoffs from some farms that seep into water tables.

VEGETABLES are being prepared at La Trinidad Trading Post, Km 6, La Trinidad, Benguet for transport to markets in the lowland.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ROUNDUP

Treasurer in drugs

BACOLOD CITY—Police charged Levi Doronilla, acting city treasurer of Talisay, Negros Occidental, with possessing and using prohibited drugs. Doronilla was detained at the Talisay police jail after he was arrested on Nov. 16 when Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) agents raided his office at the City Hall and found three sachets of shabu and drug paraphernalia. Doronilla, who was found positive of drug use, was the first government official in the province to be arrested for violating the Comprehensive Drug Act of 2002.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Ex-Cebu mayor dies

CEBU CITY—Former Cebu City Mayor Ronald Duterte died of liver cancer in his home in Banawa, Barangay Guadalupe on Sunday night. Duterte, University of Southern Philippines (USP) president and chair of the board of trustees, was brought to the hospital on Nov. 12 after he grew weak and lost his appetite for food. Last Sunday, Duterte asked his family to bring him home, said Lisa Caro, the former mayor's executive assistant. "It was he who wanted to go home," Caro said. "But he had a peaceful death. That's what we prayed for." His body was cremated on Monday and his ashes were brought to the USP gymnasium in the afternoon. On Thursday, these would be brought to the City Hall for necrological services.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Gov's suspension stopped

COTABATO CITY—The Court of Appeals (CA) has stopped the suspension of Lanao del Sur Gov. Bashier Manalao, a judge said Sunday. Manalao's suspension for six months was ordered by the Ombudsman while he is being investigated for graft and nepotism charges filed against him by his deputy, Vice Gov. Monera Macabangon. Manalao ran to the Court of Appeals and asked the court to prevent the Ombudsman from implementing the suspension order.

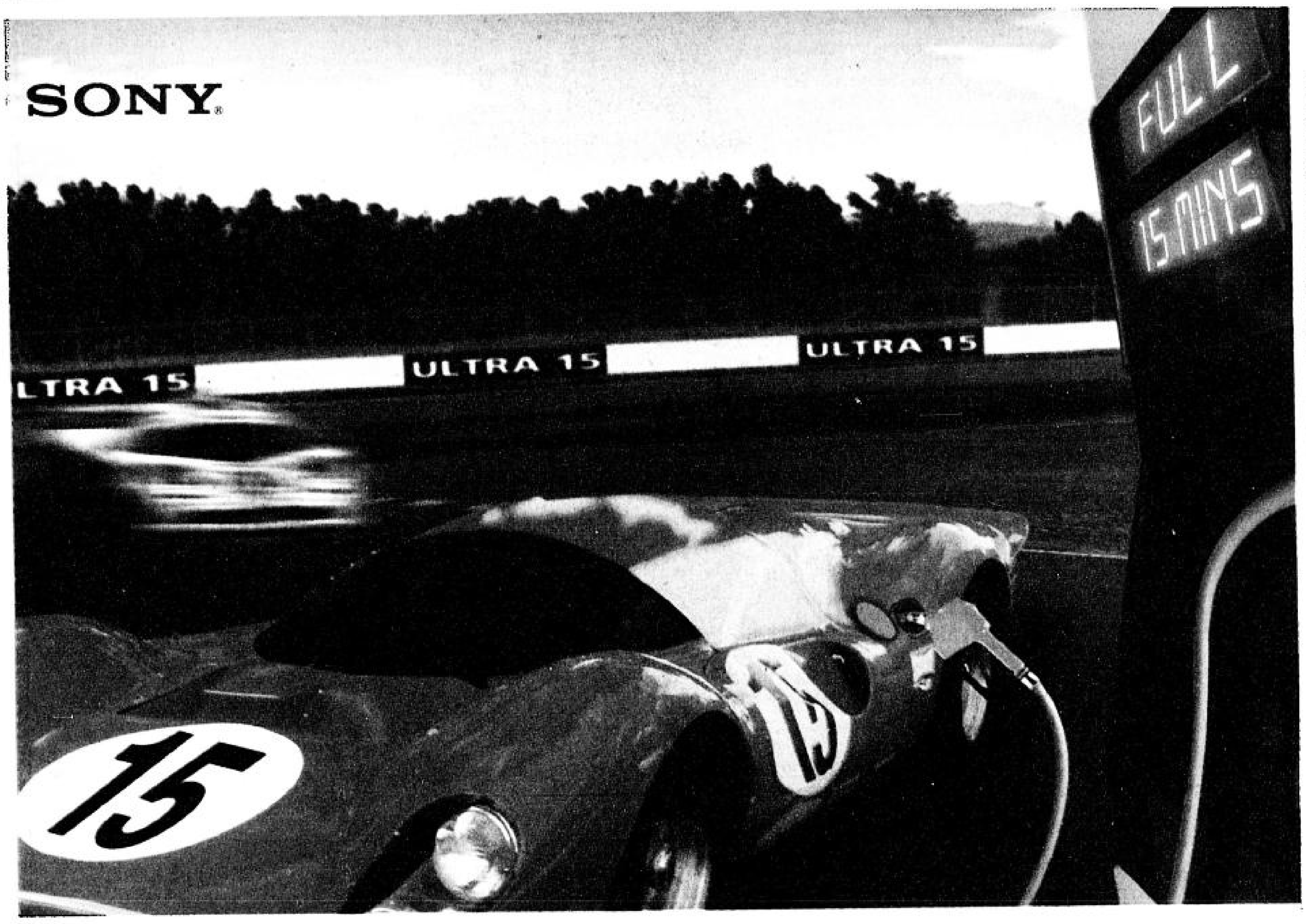
Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sagay City reunion

GRADUATES of the Holy Trinity Academy (HTA) in Paraiso, Sagay City, will hold a reunion at the HTA campus on Dec. 30. The event will highlight the "Awards Night of the Outstanding Alumni," which will give recognition to all alumni who excelled in their respective field of endeavors. This year's event will be hosted by members of Batch '83, who are already preparing a wide array of activities and surprises for alumni and their families. For further details, please contact Fr. Art Arnaiz, CICM at cell no. 09287704391; engineer Roel Cegayle, 09183123535 and lawyer Evelyn Arseño.

Veloso homecoming

THE VELOSO clan is calling on all its members worldwide to a reunion on Nov. 26-27 in Tacloban City at the Leyte Academic Center. Organizers have set a P300 registration fee. Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano was invited as a guest. Gov. Carlos Jericho Padilla will host dinner. The Veloso Foundation will be organized and provide a good opportunity for relatives to get in touch with each other, according to a press release. Interested parties may get in touch with 0918-2512757 or e-mail butchveloso@yahoo.com.



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Privatization of Metro rail ticketing mulled

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and Communication (DOTC) wants to privatize ticketing for the metro railways to do away with the long queues at stations of the Metro Rail Transit 3 and Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2.

Transport Undersecretary Guiling Mamondiong said the agency had asked a technical group to study if it would be better to have a private group operating a unified ticketing system. A private company had offered its services, and had quoted a P2.50 fee for every passenger. He said the DOTC wanted to pay only P1-P1.25 for every passenger. More than 800,000 passengers take MRT 3 and the two LRT lines daily, earning the ticket operator about P2 million everyday.

"The queuing at stations is so bad and commuters are inconvenienced by the inefficient ticketing system we have right now," said Mamondiong in an interview. The fee would cover the cost of installing new equipment.

Mamondiong said one machine would allow commuters to buy tickets through text messaging via cell phone. Similar systems are in use in Europe, Hong Kong and Singapore, he said.

"We have to weigh the cost against the convenience that a sophisticated ticketing system may bring," he added. Unified ticketing would also be more convenient for passengers transferring from one line to another.

Privatizing the ticketing operations, however, might put about 100 MRT and LRT employees out of jobs. And passengers could object to the P2.50 fee.

Mamondiong said some employees could be hired by the private company or reassigned to other projects, especially when the DOTC extended MRT 3 to Monumento and LRT Line 1 to Cavite.

The official said the study would be completed within the first half of 2006.

If found advantageous, the DOTC would conduct a bidding for the ticketing system next year, he added.

Mamondiong said it could be more cost-efficient in the long run to privatize the ticketing operations instead of buying electronic passes. The MRT just bought 800,000 magnetic tickets worth P10 million. However, he clarified that the privatization plan was separate from the proposed unified ticketing system.

Makati creates anti-car theft task force; checkpoints on major routes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD) has formed a task force against car theft in the country's financial capital.

MPD operations chief Supt. Felipe Napoles said yesterday the Task Force Carjacking was set up last Friday following the first reported carjacking case in the city and incidents of car thefts last week.

"The task force will become a continuous and regular part of our operations," Napoles told the INQUIRER.

The new group is composed of operatives and officers from the station's Anti-Carnapping (Ancar) Unit and selected police officers from Police Community Precincts (PCPs).

It will work with barangay officials, police assets, and officers of the Makati Parking Authority and Department of Public Services, among others, said Ancar chief SPO4 Ricardo Reyes.

Napoles said daily checkpoints would be set up on roads leading to and from Makati, and major thoroughfares within the city's Central Business District (CBD).

MPD checkpoints may be set up at Edsa and Kalayaan Avenue, among others.

Both roads are usually used by car thieves en route to another hit or to flee the crime scene, officials said.

But the task force refused to specify the exact locations of the checkpoints to be set up.

The routine checks, said Napoles, would entail typical checkpoint procedure, including by-view inspection to check for weapons in vehicles, and verification of license plates to see if these belonged to cars reported stolen or missing.

"The checkpoints are meant to preempt possible operations of car theft gangs. We assure the public that they will be done with utmost courtesy... this is also for their own good," Napoles said.

All checkpoints would be properly marked by visible signs, and would be manned by uniformed policemen, he added.

The task force would also deploy roving operatives of the MPD Special Weapons and Tactics team round-the-clock.

Since the task force was activated, the Ancar has recovered two vehicles that were reported missing since last week.

Reyes said his operatives found Monday a Honda Civic and an L300 van that owners reported were stolen.

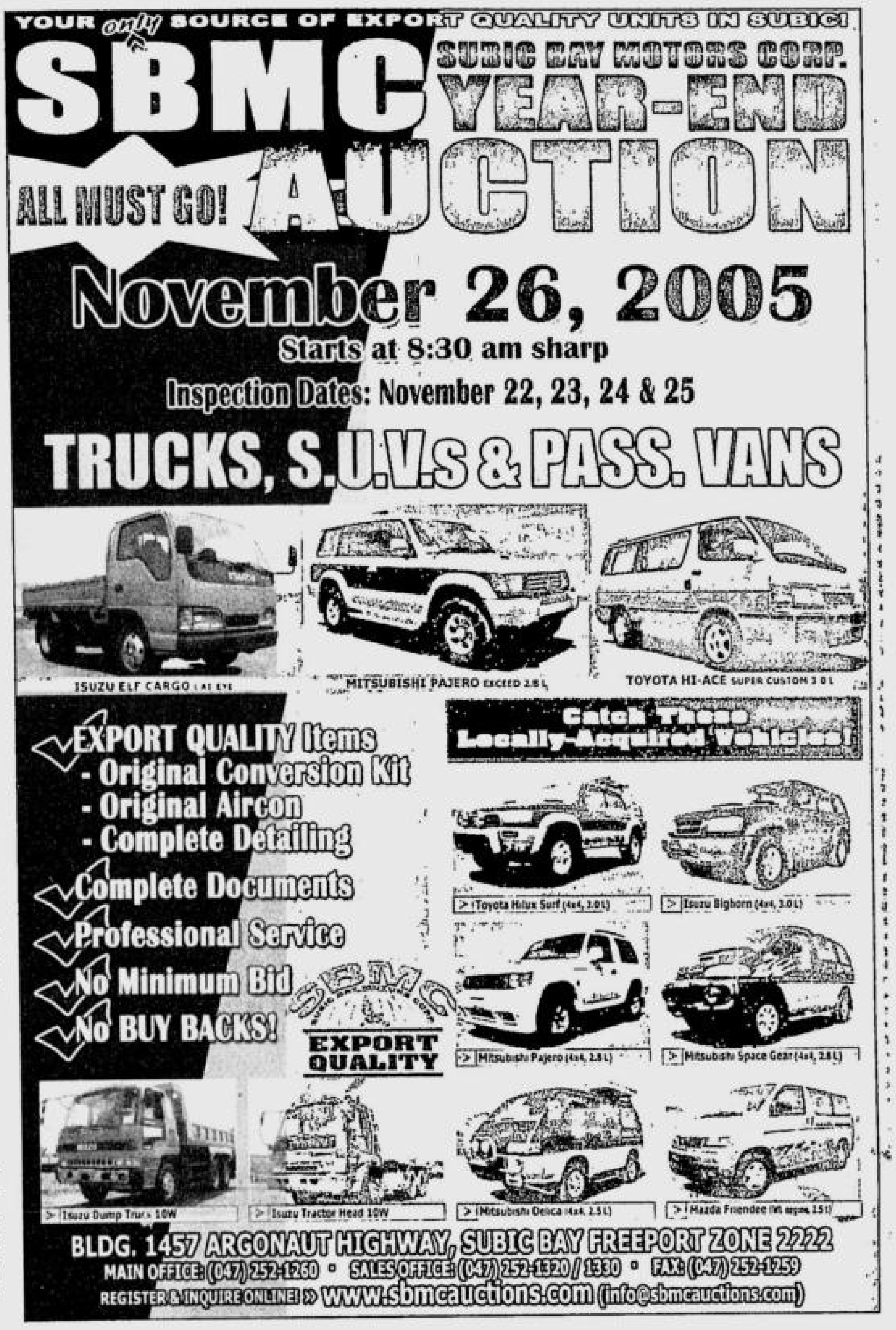
Reyes said the Ancar returned a blue Honda Civic (VRL-868) to its owner, 75-year-old Marikina resident Luis Rodriguez, who sought the MPD's assistance in finding his vehicle that he thought was stolen.

The car was found parked untouched at the corner of Dela Costa and Sanchez Streets in Salcedo Village. The owner, Reyes said, might have simply forgotten where he last parked the vehicle.

With the help of the Manila Police Department's Ancar unit, the Makati Police also recovered a 1989 model L-300 van (PRR-977), which its owner, businesswoman Jennifer San Diego, reported to have been stolen around 7 a.m. on Nov. 14.

The vehicle was found at the corner of Crisolita corner Diamante Streets in San Andres Bukid in neighboring Manila, several barangays away from where it was stolen on Evangelista Street, Barangay Pio Del Pilar, Makati City.

Reyes said the car thieves might have decided to abandon the vehicle because of the intensified police operations against them.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Jaylo faces abduction charges

By Tina G. Santos

REYNALDO JAYLO'S woes are far from over.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed charges against the head of the disbanded Presidential Anti Illegal Recruitment Task Force (Pairtf) for the alleged abduction of a businessman two months ago.

Apart from Jaylo, Pairtf deputy director Lucio Margallo IV and P01 James Emmanuel Pineda were also recommended for prosecution for arbitrary detention and usurpation of authority in the Department of Justice.

Intelligence officer Rodolfo Sosa was charged with kidnapping, serious illegal detention and usurpation of authority, the NBI added.

The new cases stemmed from a complaint of businessman Mark Anthony Lacap, of Coloong, Valenzuela City.

A report said that on Sept. 19, the complainant was in front of Kalipay Restaurant at Boardwalk, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, with a certain Daisy Valledor and her boyfriend.

Sosa allegedly forcibly brought him to the Pairtf office on Adriatico Street, Malate.

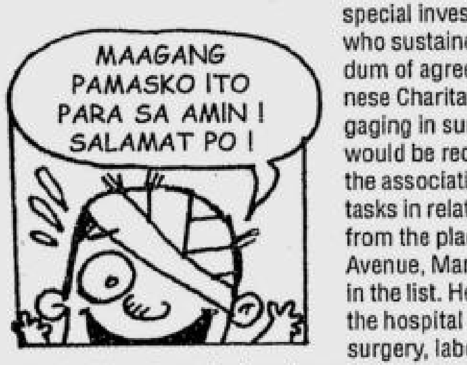
The victim was allegedly told there were complaints of illegal recruitment activities against him.

Unable to give the P200,000 allegedly needed to settle the cases, the victim was reportedly charged with illegal recruitment.

Edmund Arugay, NBI deputy director for intelligence services, said the transmittal letter for inquest proceedings were reportedly signed by Jaylo and Margallo.

METROBRIEFS

Free medical services for wounded NBI agents


MAAGANG PAMASKO ITO PARA SA AMIN! SALAMAT PO!

THE CHINESE General Hospital and Medical Center has offered free medical services for agents and special investigators of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) who sustained injuries while performing their duties. In a memorandum of agreement signed last week, officials of the Philippine-Chinese Charitable Association said agents who incur injuries while engaging in surveillance and hot-pursuit operations against criminals would be recipients of free services. Dr. James Dy, who represents the association, also said that agents wounded "while performing tasks in relation to their official functions and while going to and from the place of residence, to and from the NBI central office in Taft Avenue, Manila, or place of duty/operation" would also be included in the list. He added that apart from giving free medical treatment, the hospital would also provide minor and major operation or surgery, laboratory examination, accommodations, medicine, and other incidental medical services during the NBI agents' period of confinement. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Stalls moved out of Taft

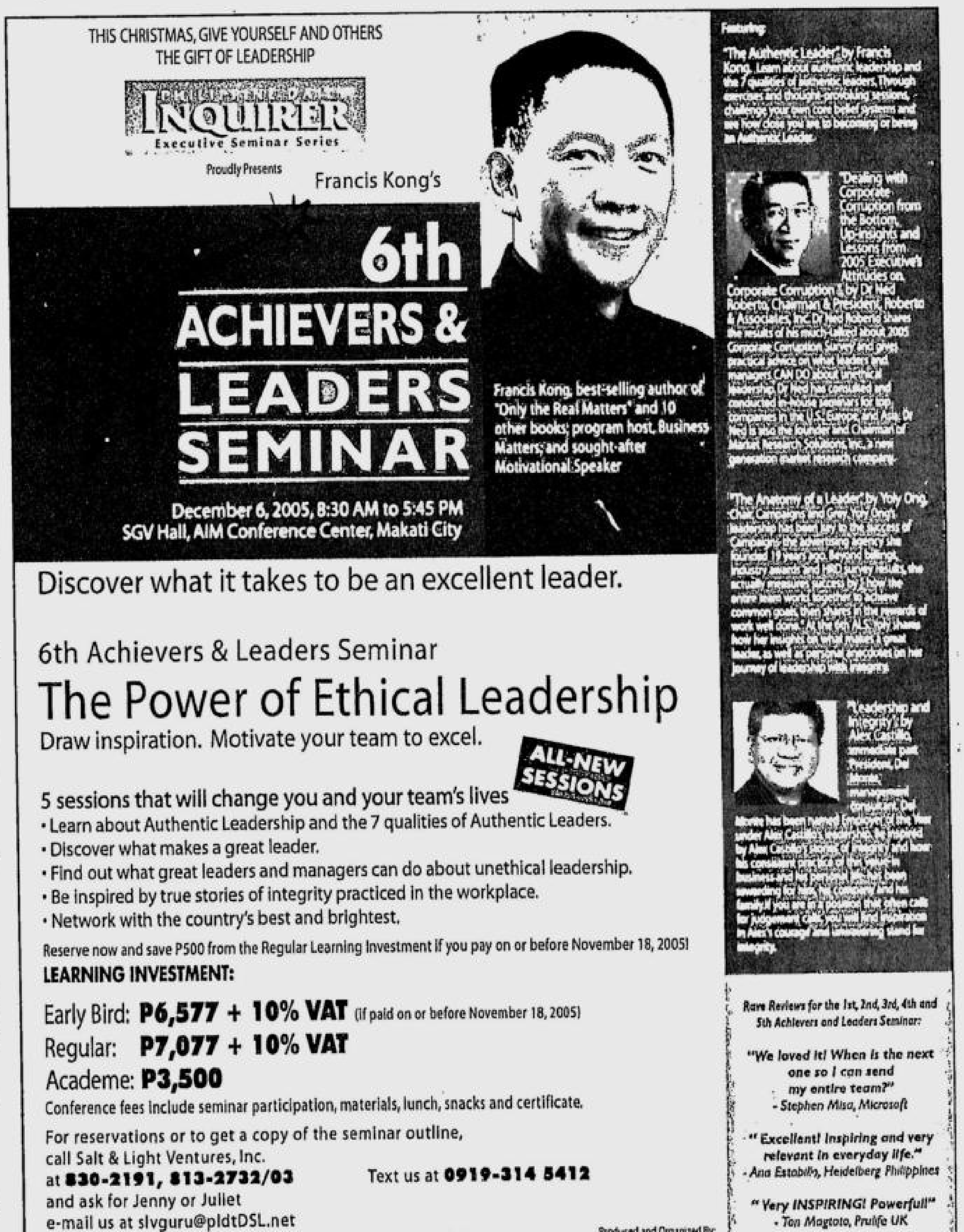
PASAY City has dismantled a hundred stalls operating without a permit on Taft Avenue bordering Baclaran, Parañaque City, to ease traffic in the area. The Solid Waste Management Office (SWMO) was tapped to clear the area. SWMO head Benjamin Reyes said the vendors were allowed to ply their trade in the area by Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad," but under certain conditions." They were allowed to sell their wares as long as no permanent stalls or booths were put up and as long as they stayed in designated areas of Taft Avenue. "But gradually, the vendors put up stalls in areas that impeded traffic bound for Baclaran," Reyes said. Meanwhile, Trinidad again appealed to the vendors to stop building prohibited structures especially in major thoroughfares to prevent traffic buildup in the area. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

LRI 2nd anniversary activities

LRI Business Plaza, a lifestyle and design center located at 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.), is celebrating its second anniversary with an exciting schedule of events that began Nov. 17 and ends Dec. 8. A "Celebrity Lifestyle Showcase" will be mounted by LRI Business Plaze store designers. Architect Alice Erfe teams up with Lynette Ngo to execute a study/library motif for former President Fidel V. Ramos. Paolo and Sarah Castillo will handle Kuh Ledesma's dream bedroom while Dottie Labao and Audi Salva will design a kitchen for Nancy Reyes. Nina Santamaria and Mahal Amanda Adams will create a dining room for Sonya Garcia of Sonya's Garden; Maya Padiernos and Derrick Dandan, a living room for Angel Aquino, and Tara Domingo and Pam Agabin, a lanai for Gina Lopez. Sculptor and kinetic artist Gabriel Barredo; fashion designer Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo and photographers Juan Caguicla, and Mandy Navasero will also show their works at the design center.

UST priests alumni homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Alumni Priests Association (UST-ALPA) marks its 71st Alumni Homecoming starting on Nov. 23-25. This year's hosts are the Silver Jubilarians headed by UST-ALPA 2005 President, Most Rev. Antonio D. Cabajog D.D., Bishop of Surigao. In line with this year's theme: "Paring Tomasino: Called to be Heralds of Hope," a series of lectures and symposia will be held with the following speakers: Archbishop of Manila, Most Rev. Gaudencio B. Rosales D.D., Rev. Fr. Jose Magadia S.J., Rector of the Loyola House of Studies; Rev. Fr. Juanito Figura, CBCP Assistant Secretary General; and CBCP Episcopal Commission on Clergy Executive Secretary, Rev. Msgr. Jose Bernardo Jr. Call Ryan Barrios at 09176239667, Billy Juan at 0918-7877167, or UST Central Seminary at 7310558.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Cities intensify bird flu watch

A CHILD holds pet chicks sold in Metro markets. Health officials have unveiled steps against entry of bird flu. AFP

By Tina G. Santos, Tarra V. Quismundo, Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MANILA HEALTH DEPARTMENT said yesterday that an antidote to the dreaded bird flu virus may soon be available at government hospitals.

The drug, called Oseltamavir, is said to be worth P1400 to P1750 for a pack of 10 capsules.

The announcement came as the city's health department intensified its information dissemination campaign to educate city residents about bird flu through symposiums conducted by physicians, nurses and sanitation officers, especially in communities with limited access to health services.

According to Dr. Eduardo Serrano, officer in charge of the Preventable Diseases Division, the antidote can inhibit a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza, which commonly comes from migratory birds. The pathogenic avian flu strain is called H5N1, referring to the subtypes of surface antigens present in the virus: hemagglutinin type 5 and neuraminidase type 1. Based on studies, infected birds pass on H5N1 through their saliva, nasal secretions and feces.

"It is important to inform and educate our people about the bird flu virus, and ways to avoid it, to allay their fears," Serrano said, quickly adding that, so far, not a single case has been recorded in the country.

Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEO) were also deployed to monitor the spread of bird flu in strategic areas in Manila, one of the provisions in a memorandum of agreement which the local government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had signed earlier.

The Makati city government, on the other hand, has ordered a ban on imported poultry products to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Makati City Veterinary Office has also intensified its monitoring of local poultry products. The ban will be imposed in the city's six supermarkets and 15 wet markets.

Meanwhile, Muntinlupa City has set up quarantine checkpoints to prevent the entry of bird flu-infested products in the city.

Chickens, ducks and other fowl which enter the city from Calamba, Laguna, Batangas and Quezon provinces will now have to pass through these checkpoints, said Tez Navarro, the city's public information chief.

She added that hogs will also be under the quarantine to prevent foot and mouth disease-related incidents in cattle, pigs, sheep and goats.

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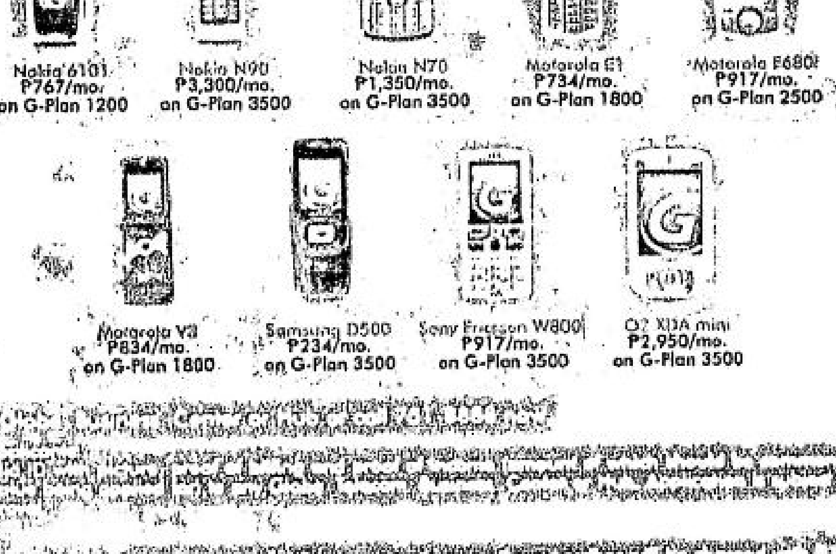

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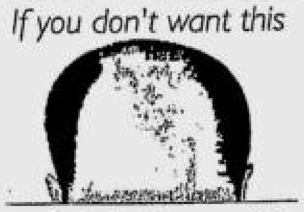
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Vietnam whips Laos, claims Group B lead

LIDIA Ibo (9) of Indonesia and Thailand's Wajee Kertsombun (13) battle for control in a SEA Games women's football match at the Marikina Sports Complex. The Thais prevailed, 2-1. REM ZAMORA

By Cedelf Tupas, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—WITH FLEET-FOOTED STRIKers Le Cong Vinh and Phan Van Quyen spearheading the attack, Vietnam crushed Laos, 8-2, last night to gain the top spot in Group B of the Southeast Asian Games men's football tournament at the Bacolod City Sports Complex here.

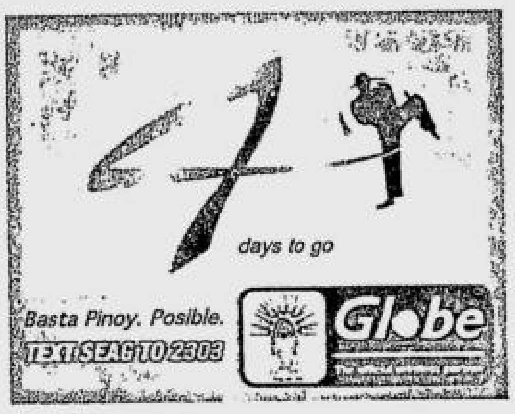
His morale boosted by a small group of flag-waving and gong-wielding Vietnamese fans, Vinh mocked the Laotian defense, producing the tournament's first hat-trick and pushing his squad nearer to the first semifinal slot in the so-called "Group of Death."

The win improved Vietnam's record to 2-0 (6 points), while Laos—3-2 winner over Myanmar Sunday—dropped to 1-1 (3 points).

In the second match, Myanmar held debuting Indonesia to a scoreless standoff to be at 0-1-1.

Over at the Marikina Sports

VIETNAM/ A24



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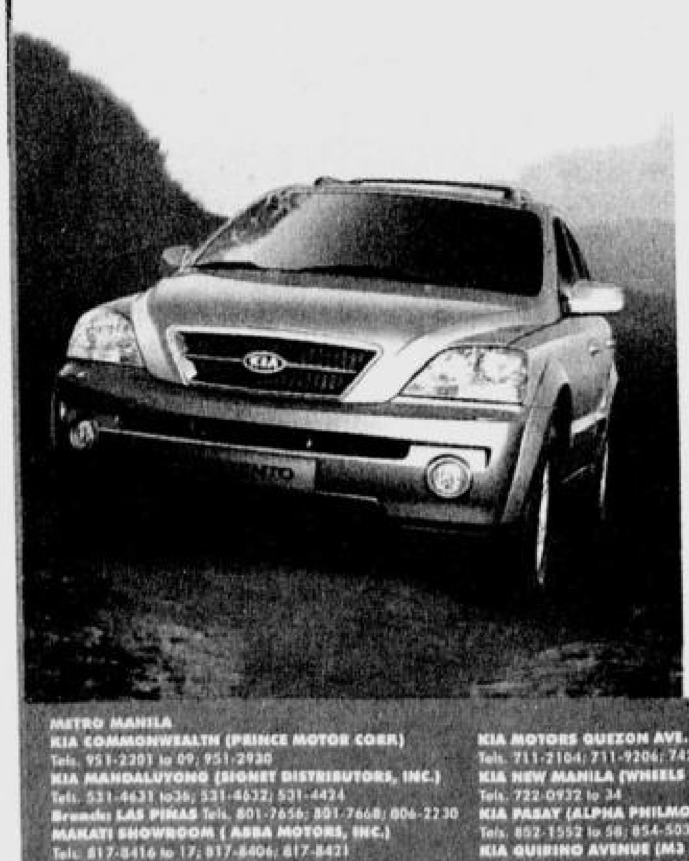

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PETRON

RP booters kick off campaign vs powerhouse Thais

By Cedelf Tupas and Christian Irl Tan
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE PHILIPPINE MEN'S football team, widely considered as the best ever assembled in years, tries to live up to the hype today when it opens its campaign for the country's first ever Southeast Asian Games medal at the Panaad pitch here.

The RP booters set out as the underdog against defending champion Thailand at 4:30 p.m. today in a Group A match that could practically gauge the Filipinos' chances of making it to the medal round.

National coach Aris Caslib yesterday vowed that his wards will give the Thais a "very difficult time."

"We will put up a good fight," said Caslib, whose team trained here for close to three weeks, in Filipino. "Thailand is a very strong team. We just have to work really hard."

At the other side of the fence, Thai coach Chanvit Pocchivin downplayed his team's chances against the Philippines, saying that he is coming into the game literally blind as to how much the RP booters have improved with the arrival of six foreign-born Filipinos.

"We are really pressured because it (Philippines) is the host," Pocchivin said. "We are not prepared with the foreign players since we have not done any scouting."

Filipino-Briton brothers Philip James and James Joseph Younghusband, Chad Gould and Philip Greatwich, Filipino-Italian Filippo Braggio and Filipino-German Andy Prochnow are Pocchivin's worries.

"We're excited and ready," said the Younghusbands, who also play for English side Chelsea's Division II team.

The foreign-born players will reinforce a team led by charismatic skipper Emilio Caligdong, US-based defender Ali Borromeo and Mark Villon.

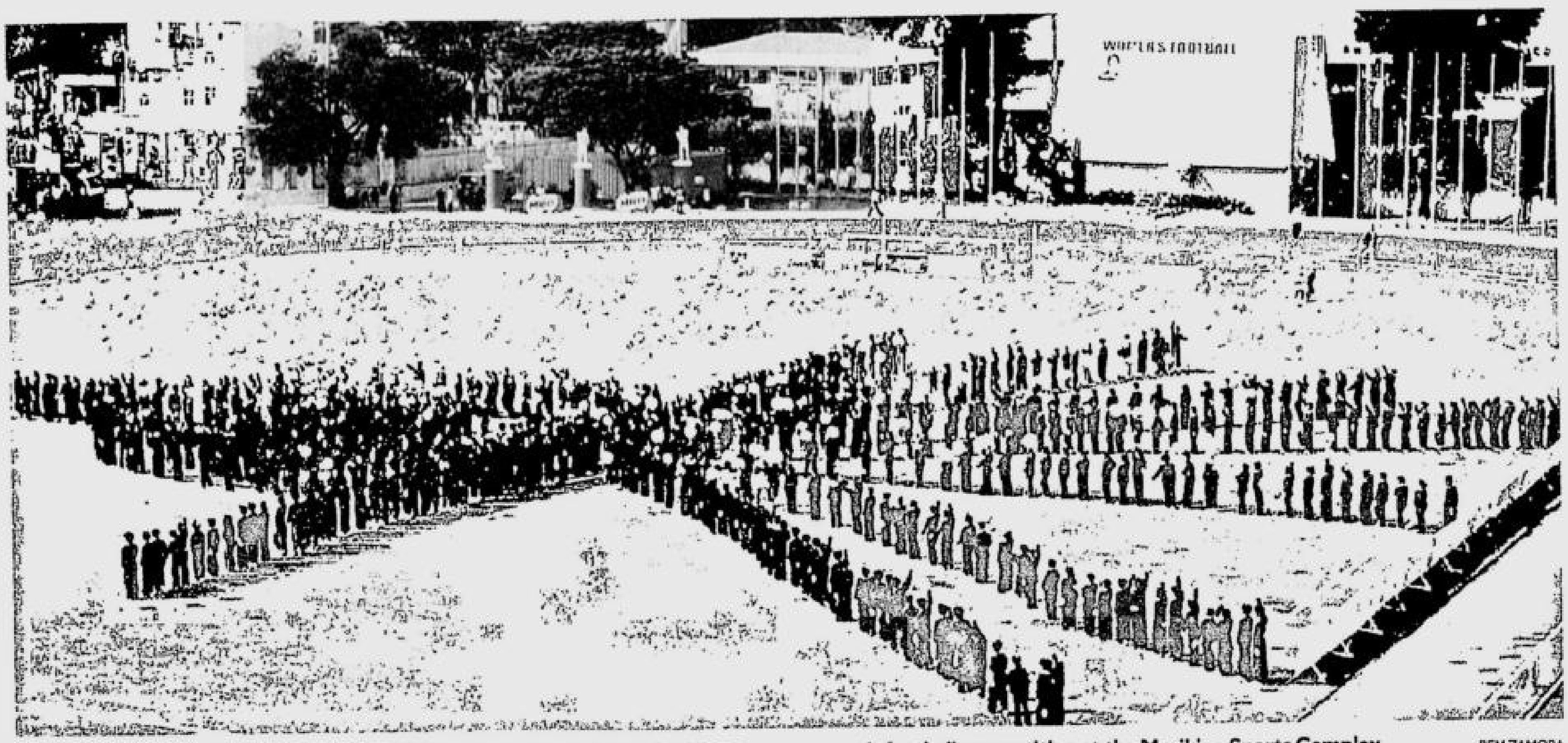
The 15,000 seater Panaad stadium in this football-loving city is expected to be packed by a sea of flag-waving RP team supporters wearing blue shirts and blue face paints—the color of the Filipinos' jerseys.

Philippine Football Federation head Johnny Romualdez and the Negros Occidental Football Association have scheduled a "Football Caravan" to draw fan support.

The convoy will assemble in front of the Kundutel at the Goldenfield Commercial Complex, where the RP team is staying, and will escort the team to Panaad.

The Philippines underwent a three-week extensive training in China, after joining the pre-SEAG tourney in Bangkok, where it beat East Timor, 6-2, in the elimination round.

In contrast, the Thais geared up by playing against high-level opponents. They won against English Premier League team Everton via a penalty shootout, but lost to Real Madrid, 0-3, and Bolton, 0-1.



HUNDREDS of high school students perform during the opening of the SEA Games women's football competition at the Marikina Sports Complex. REM ZAMORA

Vietnam XI crushes Laos

From page A23

Complex, Thailand nipped Indonesia, 2-1, and Myanmar stunned defending champion Vietnam, 1-0, at the start of the women's competition.

It was Quyen who set the tone for the rout, dribbling from the left flank before unleashing a grounding right-footed strike in the eighth minute. Laos defender Kovan Namthavyxay compounded his team's woes in the 16th minute when Vietnam's Phan Van Talem shot ricocheted off his right foot for an own goal.

Quyen, who scored both goals in Vietnam's 2-1 conquest of Singapore Sunday, booted in his second goal in the 20th minute, just moments after Davone Vongsamany knocked in Laos' first goal.

Vinh started his scoring binge in the 38th minute, pouncing on a mad scramble inside the box. His goals in the 41st and 65th minutes put the outcome beyond doubt for Vietnam.

Phayvamglath Lavamglath grabbed a goal back for Laos in the 30th minute by tapping in Vongsamany's shot that was saved by Bung Quang Huy.

Le Tan Tai completed the scoring three minutes from time, meeting Vinh's cross from the left flank with a left-footed volley.

Women's action drew an estimated 11,000 fans to the Marikina pitch.

Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee chair and Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco led sports officials in welcoming teams from the five competing countries.

Thailand and Indonesia collided after hundreds of blue balloons were released to cap a cultural presentation.

Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez and Marikina mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando also graced the program, which carried the theme "Unity and Brotherhood."

1991 hero Fegidero hopes Pinoys score upset

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—EVEN NOW, FORMER RP football team mainstay Norman Fegidero Jr. says the memory of the 1991 Southeast Asian Games still sends shivers down his spine.

"We (the players) were all in cloud nine," Fegidero, the hero in the Philippines' stunning 1-0 victory over then SEAG defending champion Malaysia, recalled. "After our win, the crowd rushed down to the field and embraced us.

"It was a proud moment for Philippine football."

The game-winner, in the 75th minute, was actually a product of nifty teamwork and complemented by Fegidero's brilliant display of skill.

Counter-attack

"We went on a counter-attack," Fegidero, now the coach of Bacolod's top team, West Negros College, told the INQUIRER. "Elmer Bedia was controlling the ball and rushing down the right wing, while I was running down the center. Elmer slipped but regained his balance, then he crossed the ball and I chested it down and volleyed it into the goal just inside the box."

On the eve of the Philippines-Thailand clash, Fegidero, who played for the RP team in five SEAGs until 1999, could not help but draw parallelisms to their squad and this year's team, which will be bannered by foreign-born Filipinos.

"Like them, we entered the game as underdogs," he said. "Thailand has a very organized defense and a very fluid attack, just like Malaysia then, but I'm optimistic we can pull of an upset."

DUET: Jose Mari Chan (left) and Rene Nieva

Chan, Nieva collaborate on SEAG song

JOSE MARI CHAN, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S leading composers and singers, and Rene Nieva, lyricist of the Biyahe Tayo! Song used for the Department of Tourism's WOW Philippines campaign, have combined their talents to come up with the theme song for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Chan, who is also chair and president of Biscom, a major sugar trading firm, did the music while Nieva, chair and president of top PR agency Perceptions, wrote the lyrics for the song titled "We're All Just One."

The CD of the song, now being played on radio and television, is rendered by the all-male Four2Five group during the 23rd SEA Games Mall Tour that has been doing the rounds of leading malls in Metro Manila to promote the games and rally support for the Filipino athletes competing in the sportsfest.

During the opening ceremony for the Games at the Rizal Park on Sunday, the song will be sung by 9-year-old singing sensation Julia Abueva, granddaughter of National Artist Napoleon Abueva. She will be backed by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Ryan Cayabyab, and the San Miguel Master Choral.

Basketball no longer an issue

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WE HAVE DISAPPOINTED FILIPINO BASketball fans, including some senators of the country whom we respect, but we are not offering any apology.

It's indeed unfortunate that a basketball championship will not be played in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games that the country is hosting.

Basketball, no doubt, is still the main staple on our national sports menu.

Of course, unlike with rice, the Southeast Asian Games would still be a grand success even without basketball.

We've done our best, tried several solutions, made sacrifices in a bid to have basketball in the Games calendar.

Now, we consider basketball a closed issue.

For now, we are focused on making the 23rd SEA Games a success, as we call on everyone to support all our athletes.

Let us be seen and heard by our competitors in the Games arena.

* * *

The move we've taken is undoubtedly an unpopular one.

But we've to take a firm stand and make sacrifices if we are to reform basketball in the country.

We've actually succeeded in preventing those who used the issue, to tie our hands, from making Filipino fans hostage in the case.

We will take the blows, but we will definitely emerge stronger to pursue a clear and bright path for the game of basketball that we've all embraced with a passion.

The Basketball Association of the Philippines, for the record, had been given a chance to make up for all the disgrace and shame it had caused the game here.

Instead of reforming, the BAP continued to defy the Philippine Olympic Committee by reneging on its vow to cooperate.

The BAP continued to follow the path set by its secretary general, Graham Lim.

Lim, ordered deported by the Philippine government for faking his birth papers, had caused the country the biggest shame and pain in the international basketball field.

By fielding inferior teams that officially represented our country in international competitions, the BAP, through Lim, had sent RP basketball to its deepest pit of despair and decay.

* * *

We had to stop this malpractice that had made the Philippines a laughingstock in foreign tournaments.

The good news is that the Fiba, ruling body of international basketball, is just waiting for the formation of a new national federation that it promised to recognize, as stated in a memorandum of agreement.

The worst is over and a change for the better is forthcoming.

We thank you all sincerely for taking that little sacrifice with us.

The worst that could've happened was for us to have done nothing when, in fact, we were capable of effecting a change for the good of Philippine sports.

This statement was prepared by a volunteer who offered to help the Philippine Olympic Committee. Without turning it down, the POC, saying basketball was already a closed case, did not approve its distribution to media.

The prepared statement, however, reached our desk. We did not see anything wrong in printing it.—*Recah Trinidad*

Antonio eyes 5-gold medal sweep

GRANDMASTER ROGELIO "JOEY" Antonio Jr. is confident that the Philippines can sweep the five gold medals at stake in the men's chess competition of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Tagaytay City Convention Center.

"We have a good chance of dominating the men's division," Antonio said. "It's a big factor that Utut (Adianto) and Dao (Thien Hai) won't be able to play."

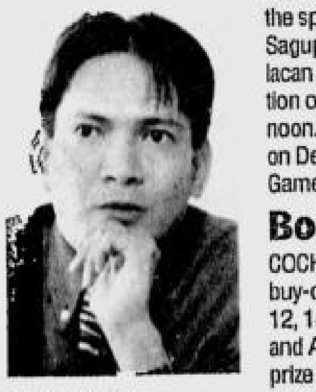
GMs Adianto and Dao and Filipino GM Mark Paragua skipped the SEAG to compete in the World Chess Cup slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 17 in Moscow.

Adianto is the reigning SEAG individual standard titlist while Dao placed third in the rapid event won by Paragua.

The 42-year-old Antonio arrived last Saturday from the United States.

Antonio was supposed to vie in the Miami Invitational slated Nov. 16-20, but was unable to do so after he was brought down by stomach pain and the flu.

Sans Paragua, a triple-gold medalist in the Vietnam SEAG, Antonio and fellow GMs Eugene Torre and Nelson Mariano will spearhead the men's team in the standard event. Joining them are NM Oliver Barbosa and Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*



ANTONIO

SPORTSWATCH

Brunei pulls out of football, boxing

BACOLOD CITY—AFTER DECLARING IT WAS SKIPPING THE MEN'S FOOTBALL competition, Brunei also withdrew from the Southeast Asian Games boxing tournament, dashing hopes of a complete 11-nation roster for the event here, the Bacolod SEAG Organizing Committee (BaSoc) announced last night. Bruneian officials did not explain why they are skipping the Bacolod events, and the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee is still awaiting an official statement from the delegation. BaSoc secretary general Eric Loretizo said he was informed of the boxing team's withdrawal by Brunei deputy chef d' mission Sofian Ibrahim through an e-mail message last week. *Cedelf Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SEA Games shown on ABC 5

THE ASSOCIATED Broadcasting Company (ABC-5) has secured the broadcasting rights for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games which the country will be hosting formally beginning this weekend. As lead broadcaster of the biennial meet, ABC Sports will provide more than 100 hours of airtime, covering the exploits of the country's top athletes as Team Philippines fight for overall supremacy in the region. Included in the agreement forged by ABC Sports and the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee are several broadcast innovations designed to keep the Filipino sports fans glued to their seats on every medal potential the network will be covering.

Sarmiento leads Binay Cup winners

DANNY Sarmiento, Ahn Jae Young and Meng Tam Ng ruled their respective divisions in the 2005 Jojo Binay Cup Golf Invitational held recently at the Alabang Golf and Country Club. Sarmiento topped Group 1, with Luis Bonoan finishing second and Andrew Gloria third. Young beat Willie Garcia and Juan Castillo for the title in Group 2, while Tam lorded it over in Group 3. The tournament was held to launch the JCBinay Foundation of Makati Mayor Jojo Binay. Russ Alfonso was first runner-up while Ruben Santos copped third in Group C. Part of the proceeds will fund the scholarships of underprivileged high school graduates in Makati.

Catubay loses via split decision

PHILIPPINE flyweight champion Federico Catubay dropped a split decision verdict to Japan's Noriyuki Komatsu in their 12-round tiff for the vacant Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) flyweight title at the Prefectural Gym in Osaka, Japan, last night. It was Catubay's second loss in an OPBF title fight in as many outings. In his first attempt, he was stopped in the third round by Hussein Hussein. With the win, Komatsu improved his record to 21-2-5 with 9 KOs and regained the title he relinquished when he took a crack at WBC champ Pongsaklek Wongjongkam. Catubay's record dropped to 16-2-7. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Champion joins Roligon cockfest

RONALD Barandino, coming all the way from Basilan, is set to field three entries in Roligon Mega Cockpit's Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa 5-cock derby, which is slated on Dec. 5, 7, 10 and 12. Barandino recently topped the 200-entry Stag Festival at Roligon and went home with the Izusu Big Horn 4 x 4, his bonus for being the fastest win champion. The derby to be hosted by Rolly Ligon stakes P2 million plus a brand new Mazda as bonus prize for the fastest win champion. Reservation of cockhouses is now ongoing. For details, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

Bigtime derby slates 100 fights

BIGTIME cockfighting is back at the air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum today via the special 4-stag derby that will feature more than 100 fights. It is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Participants from Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Bulacan and Ilocos will be pitted against members of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines and National Cockers Association. The first fight is set at noon. A guaranteed prize of P500,000 is at stake. Another 4-stag derby is set at SJC on Dec. 7, with Tarlac Gamefowl Breeders Association (Tagba) and Kapampangan Gamefowl Breeders Association (KGBA) as hosts.

Bonus awaits Makati Coliseum cockers

COCKFIGHT aficionados who frequent Makati Coliseum will get the tickets on a buy-one, take-one promo during the Pamaskong Salpukan 6-cock derby on Dec. 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 26 and 28 at the Makati Coliseum. To be hosted by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., the event has an entry fee of P11,000 and a guaranteed prize of P3 million plus a brand new Toyota Innova. Elimination rounds (3-cock) are scheduled Dec. 12, 14, 17, 19 and 21. For inquiries, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

Singapore dims RP hopes in water polo

GAMES TODAY (*Trace Aquatics Center*)
4 p.m.—Vietnam vs Malaysia
5:15p.m.—Singapore vs Indonesia
6:30p.m.—Thailand vs Philippines

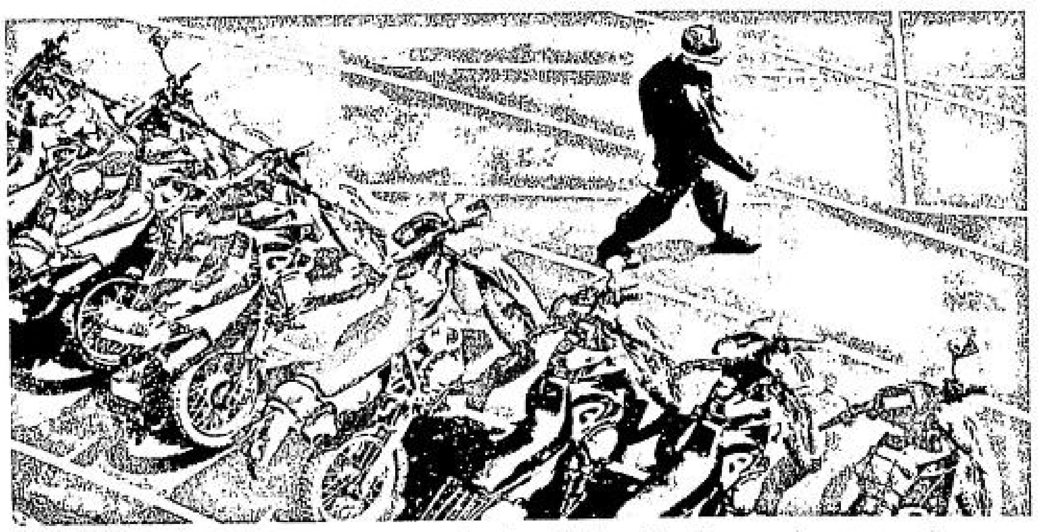
By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—THE PHILIPPINE WATER POLO team saw its fortunes turn from good to bad overnight.

Needing an upset that could have paved the way to the gold medal, the Philippines led after three quarters and looked headed there when Singapore suddenly scored a pivotal goal in the final minute for a 7-6 victory in Day 2 of the Southeast Asian Games last night at the Trace Aquatics Center here.

Singapore, the perennial champ, now has two wins to show in the single-round tournament where the team with the best record runs away with the gold.

It was a tragic loss for the Filipinos because with the winner over the other rule being applied, the only way they can win the gold is by sweeping the last three games and hoping that Singapore loses two matches—a situation highly unlikely with the way the Singaporeans are playing.


MOTORCYCLES of the SEA Games security force lie in wait as the opening ceremonies near.

The Philippines, which has never won a gold in water polo, dropped to 1-1 after a 15-10 triumph over Indonesia in the first day.

"We have never been this close to winning against Singapore," said swimming association president Mark Joseph.

The Philippines led, 4-3, at the end of the third quarter but the Singaporeans, displaying the system perfected by its Russian coach and the pride of having a long tradition of winning in the SEA Games, managed to tie the score at 6-6, with just 1:30 left. Singapore's Terrence Tan Wei Keong flicked that fateful goal in the last minute to break the hearts of the big partisan crowd.

Poveda girls reach inter-school final vs MHDP shuttlers

POVEDA REPULSED A STUBBORN La Salle-Antipolo side, 2-1, and arranged a championship showdown with an in-form Marcelo H. Del Pilar team in the junior girls' division of the JVC Inter-scholastic Badminton Championships at the Glorietta yesterday.

Samantha Huang dropped just one point in her crucial match with Dionne Ramos, 11-0, 11-1, to clinch the tie for the defending champions, who had to go through a wringer after their doubles team of Fatima dela Cruz and Patricia Tolentino dropped an 11-15, 11-15 setback to Rochelle Andres and Bernice Arsenio.

Earlier, Carla Lizardo overwhelmed Malvinne Alcala, 11-4, 11-4, in the first singles match.

The MH Del Pilar shuttlers, on the other hand, stepped up their title bid in this event sponsored by JVC with a 3-0 rout of Woodrose with Jackielyn Cudia and Malou Gaspar posting straight-set victories over Michelle Cruz (11-2, 11-5) and Daniela Gamboa (11-3 11-7).

Chona Medina and Jaevena Subilla completed the sweep with a 15-1, 15-3 win over Carla Cruz and Roxanne Olanday.

Arellano fought back from a loss in the first singles match as it turned back Xavier, 2-1, and advanced to the finals of this event backed by Planet Sports, Bingo Bonanza, L Timestudio, Rudy Project, Gillette, Bacchus Energy Drink, Alaska, Lactacyd, Sunbolt, Coffee House, Accel, PhilStar, Pinoy Exchange.Com, Solar Sports, Ayala Center, PowerSmash and Magic 89.9.

Andrei Babad and Ian Bautista beat Joffre Arollado and Michael Lim, 15-7, 15-1, and Amjo Bautista held off Jeric Sy, 15-8, 15-12, to make up for the loss of JP Babad to Jobett Co, 12-15, 15-5, 15-4, as Arellano advanced against Ateneo, which nipped Roosevelt, 2-1.

The high school finals are set today with the girls championship at 10 a.m., also at the Glorietta.

The boys finals will be played at 11:30, while the JVC cheer-dancing competition is set at 1 p.m.

For updates, log on to www.jvcbadminton.com. Highlights of the event will be aired on IBC-13 on Dec. 8 and 9 starting at 3:30 p.m. and on Solar Sports on Dec. 26 and 28 beginning at 5:30 p.m., and on Jan. 3 and 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Air21 tries to stretch streak

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Talk 'N Text	6	5
Air21	6	5
Alaska	5	6
Sta. Lucia	5	7
Coca-Cola	4	6
San Miguel	1	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola Tigers vs Air21 Express
7:25 p.m.—San Miguel Beermen vs Alaska Aces

ON A HOT STREAK, AIR21 HOPES TO sustain its fire against Coca-Cola today before the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference goes on a two-week break to give way to the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Fresh off their conquest of the Sta. Lucia Realtors, the Express are looking to stretch a three-game roll opposite the Tigers in the opener of a regular twinbill at the Araneta Coliseum.

A win will shove the Express in a triple tie with the second-running Barangay Ginebra Kings and Red Bull Barako, who are both sporting 7-5 records.

"But we cannot take them (Tigers) for granted," said Air21 head coach Bo Perasol. "They are not the same team any more when the season started."

The Tigers won three of their last four games since Rafi Reavis got the green light to play after a six-month suspension.

"Rafi has given them added depth inside the shaded area, while Omar Thomas has been blending with the team pretty well," said Perasol.

But the Express are also getting better by the day with Shawn Daniels fitting perfectly into the Air21 chemistry.

San Miguel Beer and Alaska try to avert a five-game slide when they take on each other in the 7:25 p.m. main game. The Aces absorbed their fourth straight defeat against the Express while the Beermen got theirs at the hands of the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

Coach Jong Uichico has confirmed that Kwan Johnson would remain as the Beermen's reinforcement despite the pile of setbacks in the tournament sponsored by Xtreme Magic Sing.

Meanwhile, the league is giving away one upper-box ticket for every three students who will watch the game tomorrow.

June Navarro

Puno Cup opens NBC-Nature Spring cage series

NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) and Nature's Spring kick off their pre-season series with the staging of the 1st Congressman Ronnie Puno Cup on Dec. 2-8 in Antipolo City.

The Skygo/Sirlitz-backed 2004 champion Tribu Sugbu heads the eight-team tournament.

NBC secretary general Tito Palma finalized the five-day tourney after a meeting with Puno, Antipolo Basketball League commissioner Gilbert "Bong'" Dulfo, ABL project director and Councilor Ronaldo Leyva, ABL technical committee head Christopher Lico and advisers Lorenzo Sumulong and Jonathan Reyes.

NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla welcomed the participation of Antipolo in the pre-season series supported by Sulpicio Lines and Spring Cooking Oil. Also vying are Forward Taguig, Spring Cooking Oil, Bacchus-Metro Manila and four teams from Antipolo City.

Ozamiz Cotta emerged national champion in the recent NBC tourney.

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4 pm : Five Feminist Minutes (Canada)
7 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
9:30 pm : Phir Milenge (India)

Nov. 25 (Friday, Filipino Day!)
1 pm : Ang Tanging Ina
4 pm : Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo
7 pm : Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?
9:30 pm : Moral

Nov. 26 (Saturday)
1 pm : She Says: Women in News (US)
4 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
7 pm : Te Doy Mis Ojos (Spain)
9:30 pm : The Road Home (China)

Nov 27 (Sunday)
1 pm : Five Feminist Minutes (Canada)
4 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
7 pm : Baran (Iran)
9:30 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (US) (HBO)

Nov 28 (Monday)
1 pm : Dahil Mahal.Kita (Philippines)
4 pm : Manthan (India)
7 pm : Frida (Mexico)
9:30 pm : Anak (Philippines)

Nov 29(Tuesday)
1 pm : Tumaini (Tanzania)
4 pm : Baran (Iran)
7 pm : The Road Home (China)
9:30 pm : She Says: Women in News (US)

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SPORTS

Tiger enters Grand Slam

LOS ANGELES—WORLD NUMBER ONE TIGER Woods is expected to play in this week's PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Hawaii despite injuring his ankle before winning the Dunlop Phoenix tournament in Japan on Sunday.

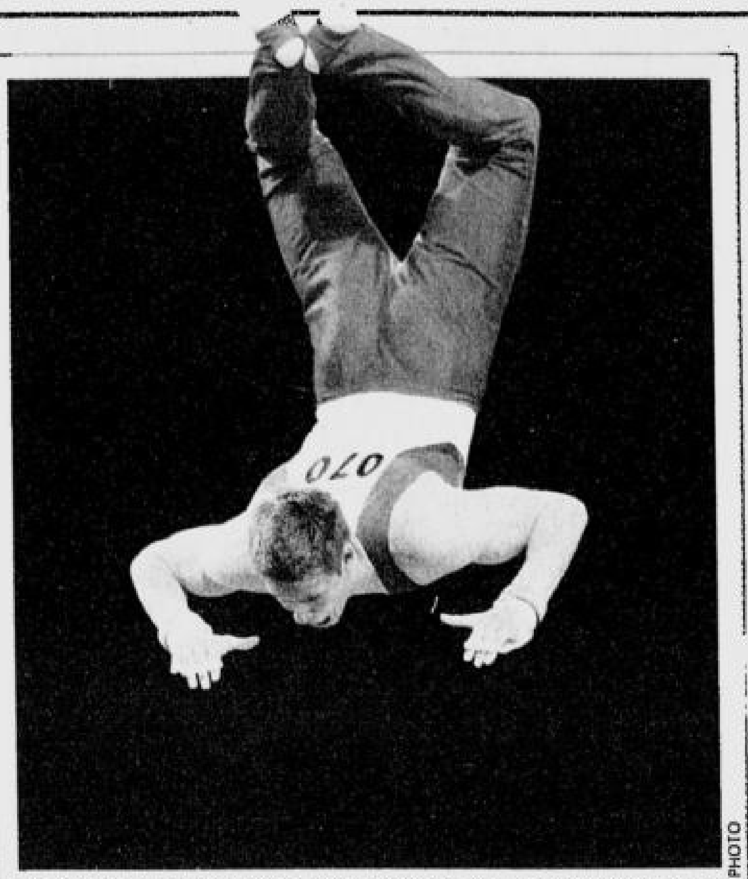
"Tiger is not playing in today's pro-am because of a stomach virus but, as things stand, he will be teeing off in tomorrow's first round," a tournament spokesperson at the Poipu Bay Golf Course in Kauai said on Monday.

Woods, who clinched a record five Grand Slam titles in a row from 1998, aggravated an injury to his left ankle on the first of four extra holes against Japan's Kaname Yokoo in Miyazaki before securing his seventh title of the season.

The US Masters and British Open champion will face the challenge in Hawaii of US Open winner Michael Campbell, US PGA champion Phil Mickelson and world number two Vijay Singh.

The elite four-man event, which will be played over two rounds starting on Tuesday, brings together the winners of the season's four major championships.

Fijian Singh, the second alternate for the event, took the place of first alternate Retief Goosen, who is spending time in his native South Africa. *Reuters*



AP PHOTO

WORLD GYMNASTICS: Finland's Jani Tanskanen competes on the high bar during the opening day of the world gymnastic championships in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday. There are 275 gymnasts competing.

Sixers halt skid; Spurs win anew

NEW YORK—ALLEN IVERSON SCORED 24 points and Chris Webber added a double-double to help the Philadelphia 76ers pull out of two-game losing skid with a 103-91 win over the New Orleans Hornets at the Wachovia Center on Monday.

Iverson, who failed to register at least 25 points for the first time this season, also dished out nine assists while Webber had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Six 76ers, including all five starters, reached double figures, John Salmons contributing 19 points and Andre Iguodala 15 to the Philadelphia cause.

Kyle Korver had 10 points while Steven Hunter also hit for 10 points and a career-high 12 rebounds.

David West paced the Hornets with a 20 point effort.

The 76ers took command early, leading 32-27 after the first quarter and 65-47 at the intermission allowing Iverson, the league's second leading scorer, to rest much of second half.

In Sacramento, Tony Parker drained 23 points and Tim Duncan chipped in with 22 points and 19 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs slipped past the Kings 96-93 to notch their fourth consecutive win.

Mike Bibby had a game-high 33 points while Bonzi Wells added 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Kings, who rallied from a 17-point deficit in the fourth quarter to help the NBA champions earn their ninth win of the season.

In Oakland, Jason Richardson poured in 25 points and Derek Fisher added 22, leading the Golden State Warriors past the New Jersey Nets 100-97. *Reuters*

The Cleveland Cavaliers gun for their eighth straight win when they host the Boston Celtics today. Solar Sports will air the match starting 8 a.m.

Complete results

Philadelphia 103 N.O./Oklahoma City 91; Utah 100, Milwaukee 80; San Antonio 96, Sacramento 93; Golden State 100, New Jersey 97.

Touring Car Championship goes to Subic

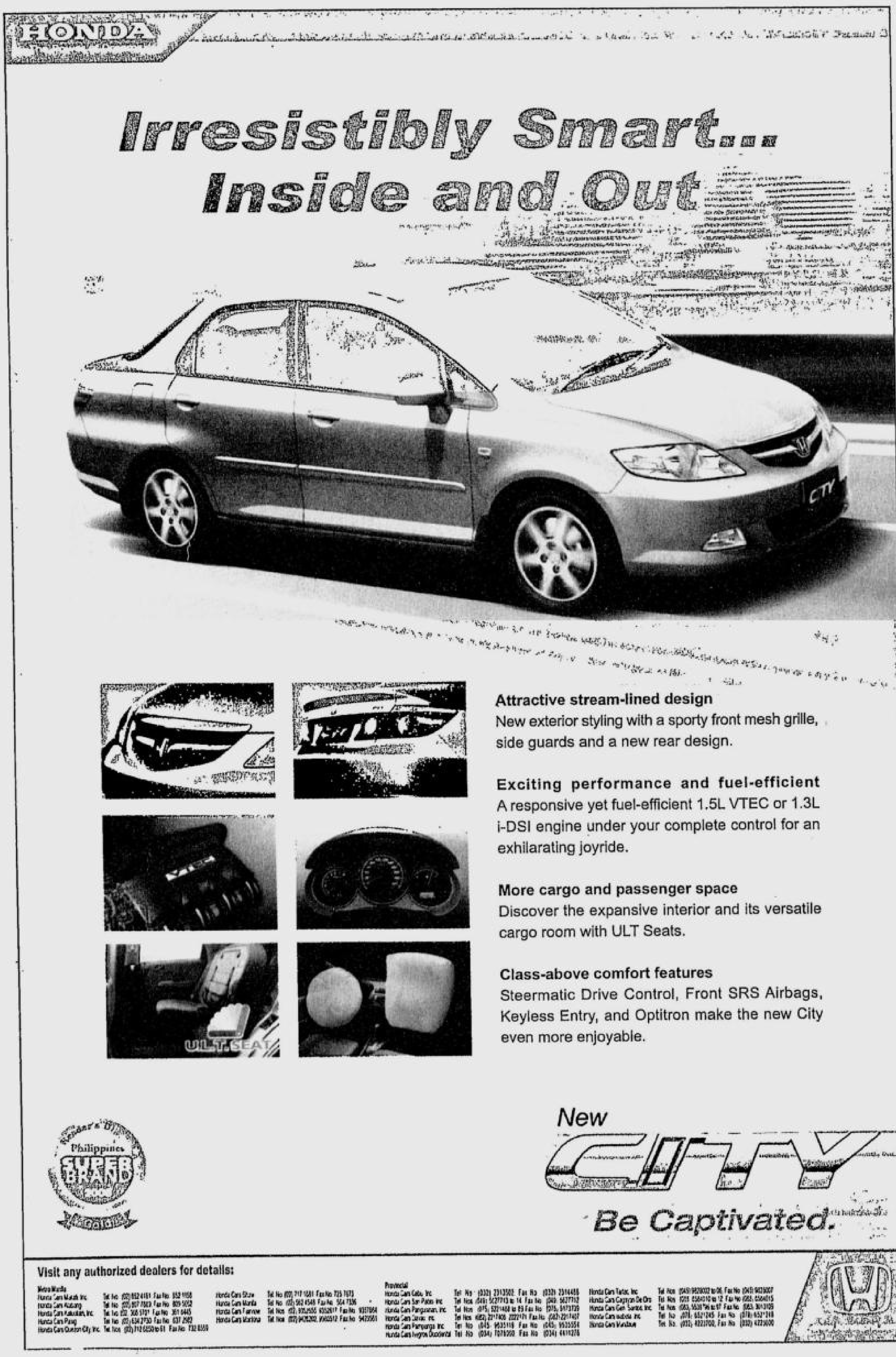
THE QUEST FOR THE AAP DRIVER of the year award moves up to a different level as the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 shifts action at the Subic International Raceway for its third leg on Nov. 26-27.

Versatility and strategy will play a big role as the Subic International Raceway, newly developed and redesigned, has been opened for practice and familiarization to any competitor for this event sanctioned by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Spectators could expect a more intense rivalry among the top three drivers—Jody Coseteng of San Miguel Beer, Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA and privateer Enzo Pastor in Group N1 division—aside from feeling the festive atmosphere of the Karakoa Festival of the SMBA which will be staged on the same weekend.

Coseteng lends the title race with a four-round aggregate of 94 points while Ramirez and Pastor follow with 82 and 69 points, respectively.

The new track design, untested by any driver, gives MP Turbo lead driver Carlos Anton (58 points), Philip Alvendia of A3 Motorsports Malayan Automasters Touring Team (58 pts.), Denise Uy of Velocity Motors-H&R_Conocoracing Team (38 pts.), Louie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA (29 pts.), Dominic Bon and MP Turbo's Monching Gutierrez and Jonathan Buxton equal chances.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Keon's medal projection for SEA Games stands

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I WAS ALMOST SURE HE'D BE in Manila for the Southeast Asian Games by the time the PBA delegation got to Laoag Thursday morning for the All-Stars, but I decided to call Mike Keon yesterday anyway to check out his schedule.

Just as I thought, Mike was leaving for Manila Tuesday night. The former Gintong Alay Project Director, who is the PSC's national training director for the SEAG, has made a commitment to show me around if ever I got the opportunity to visit his little kingdom.

Now that I did after what seemed like a lifetime, he would not be there. Mike was kind enough though to offer me the use of his office facilities at the Marcos Stadium.

***

I knew exactly what he was going to say because it's been in all the papers previously, but I just had to hear the words straight from the horse's mouth.

His voice was firm and confident. Mike reiterated that we had a very, very good chance to finish runner-up or even overall champion in the Manila SEA Games scheduled Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

His gold medal projection still stands, he said: 92 to 128 golds!

Despite the basketball imbroglio, despite the inadequate preparations, Mike said the athletes' training was not adversely affected.

"They had good international training and good international exposure, and are really prepared for the competition," Mike said.

***

The other day, I got a copy of the 15-page report of the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports on the public hearing held last Aug. 31 seeking to inquire on the incident that led to the Fiba ban on the Philippines.

As we all know, the immediate concern of the committee, as stated in the report, is to have the ban lifted so we can defend our title in the SEAG.

"The POC executive board needs to heed the recommendation set by Fiba to POC president Peping Cojuangco to return the status quo when the BAP was fully recognized by POC, the only solution to allow the country's immediate participation in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games," the report read.

The committee said it is confident that "with the kind of leadership displayed to us by the POC officers," they can have the cancellation of the basketball event reversed.

If I may make a confession, I have mixed emotions on this matter. I'm not too sure I want the basketball event to be restored in the SEAG.

True, the title is a cinch for the men's team, but what about the ladies? With their program strewn by the wayside due to the festering conflict between the BAP and the POC, the condition of the national cagebelles coached by Raymond Celis is truly pathetic.

To start with, the PSC, acting on the orders of the POC, cut off all support for the team, like allowances, uniforms, basketball facilities and funds for international exposure.

The San Miguel Corporation has allotted P1.5 million to the team, which was intended to fund the recruitment of Fil-American players who will provide height to the squad, but not a single centavo was released by the POC.

I don't know where the money went.

La Salle Greenhills was kind enough to allow the cagebelles the use of their gym for free, but Raymond could not impose on this kindness forever.

No practice venue, no allowance, no reinforcement, no nothing.

How can we expect to win? It feels like such a hopeless situation.

***

Raymond was starting to follow my trend of thought and sentiment. But that was before his birthday celebration last Saturday, Nov. 19, where the national cagebelles surprised him with a song and dance number—their gift, they said, to the birthday boy.

They swayed to the tune of the Pinoy Big Brother theme, changing the lyrics. I can't remember the exact words , I can only recall them singing that their coach was "*ibang-iba , pogi na, matalino pa* ," and "*mahal na mahal namin siya*."

I thought this gift, simple as it was, more than made up for all the heartaches, headaches and frustrations Raymond had experienced since he became coach of the national ladies team.

"*Hindi bale hong matalo, makalaro lang*," the ladies, like true athletes, chorused, reminding me of Senator Pia Cayetano's statement during the senate hearing of Aug. 31.

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Race 4—1. Bomb Shell 2. Gentleman's Lady 3. Empire State 4. Valiant Queen 5. Something Silver

Race 5—1. Dark Desert 2. Mrs. Bip 3. Sharon's Cookie 4. Balwarte

Race 6—1. Yao Man 2. Besame Mucho 3. Caden Dance 4. Magical Surf 5. Steel Smasher

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2-week-old QTV gets first warning

By Marinel R. Cruz

BARELY TWO WEEKS AFTER it was launched, new channel QTV 11 has received a warning from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) for airing scenes "not fit for television viewing."

Censors chief Marissa Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Monday: "Being new does not excuse the network from monitoring its shows closely. If it violates MTRCB rules again, it will face a more severe sanction."

In a memorandum dated Nov. 17, Laguardia ordered QTV Program Management head Jose Mari Abacan to attend a meeting with the Board on Nov. 21 to discuss the infractions committed by the weekly morning program, "QTV Gems."

An earlier memorandum, addressed to Laguardia and signed by special agents of the Board's Monitoring and Inspection Unit (MIU), reported that the show's "Bakla" episode on Nov. 16 was objectionable "due to the airing of kissing scenes between two males."

"QTV Gems: Bakla" was a trilogy on gay relationships, two of which featured Dennis Trillo and Romnick Sarmenta as lead actors.

"A program like this should not be shown in the morning because its thematic content is too mature for prime-time viewing," Laguardia pointed out. "QTV should transfer this to a 10 p.m. time slot, when children are presumed to be asleep."

During the meeting on Monday, Laguardia said, Abacan explained that "QTV Gems" was just temporarily taking up the time slot of the network's upcoming noontime variety show.

"He also assured me that future shows on QTV would not violate MTRCB implementing rules and regulations," she added.

ABC 5, too

ABC 5 also received a warning from the Board for airing on Nov. 19 a show titled, "10th Marho Cup Breeders' Championship," without securing a permit to exhibit.

In a memo to ABC 5 Vice President for Program Acquisition Vic Vianzon, Laguardia said the network violated Presidential Decree No. 1986 and would be fined a total of P1,900. She explained that the fine included a charge of P700 per hour of the material aired and P1,200 surcharge for late payment of permit.

In his letter to Laguardia dated Nov. 18, Vianzon apologized for the network's failure to comply with requirements and requested for a "post review" of the show, the second part of which is set to be aired Nov. 26.

Vianzon explained that the network's inability to secure said permit was due to "technical problems encountered during editing."

OPENING TODAY

Prime

Stars Meryl Streep, Uma Thurman, Bryan Greenberg

Directed by Ben Younger

Neurotic hilarity ensues when a sexy divorcée (Thurman) reveals way too much to her therapist (Streep), who turns out to be the mother of the younger man she's been dating. Wesley Morris of the Boston Globe raves: "A surprisingly smart romantic comedy... that charms with the brain as well as the heart." Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times thinks it's "flawed... yet I must recommend it because... the actors... bring truth at least to their dialogue."

The Exorcism of Emily Rose

Stars Laura Linney, Tom Wilkinson, Jennifer Carpenter

Directed by Scott Derrickson

An unbelieving lawyer (Linney) reluctantly defends a priest (Wilkinson) accused of "negligent homicide" after a college girl (Carpenter) dies in an exorcism. Melinda Ennis of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution thinks the "courtroom horror film" is "inconsistently executed... As horror, it's not so horrifying, and as a courtroom drama we can see better any night on 'Law and Order.'" Roger Ebert describes it, however, as "intriguing and perplexing."

The Myth

Stars Jackie Chan, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Kim Hee-seon, Mallika Sherawat

Directed by Stanley Tong

Chopsocky champ Chan takes the "Indiana Jones" route as fearless archeologist Jack who searches for the tomb of China's first emperor. David Nusair of Reel Film Reviews commends the film for "the lighthearted and entertaining vibe... and impressive action scenes." He describes it, though, as "interminable."

My Little Bride

Stars Kim Rae-won, Moon Geun-young

Directed by Kim Ho-jun

A campus heartthrob (Rae-won) gets the shock of his life

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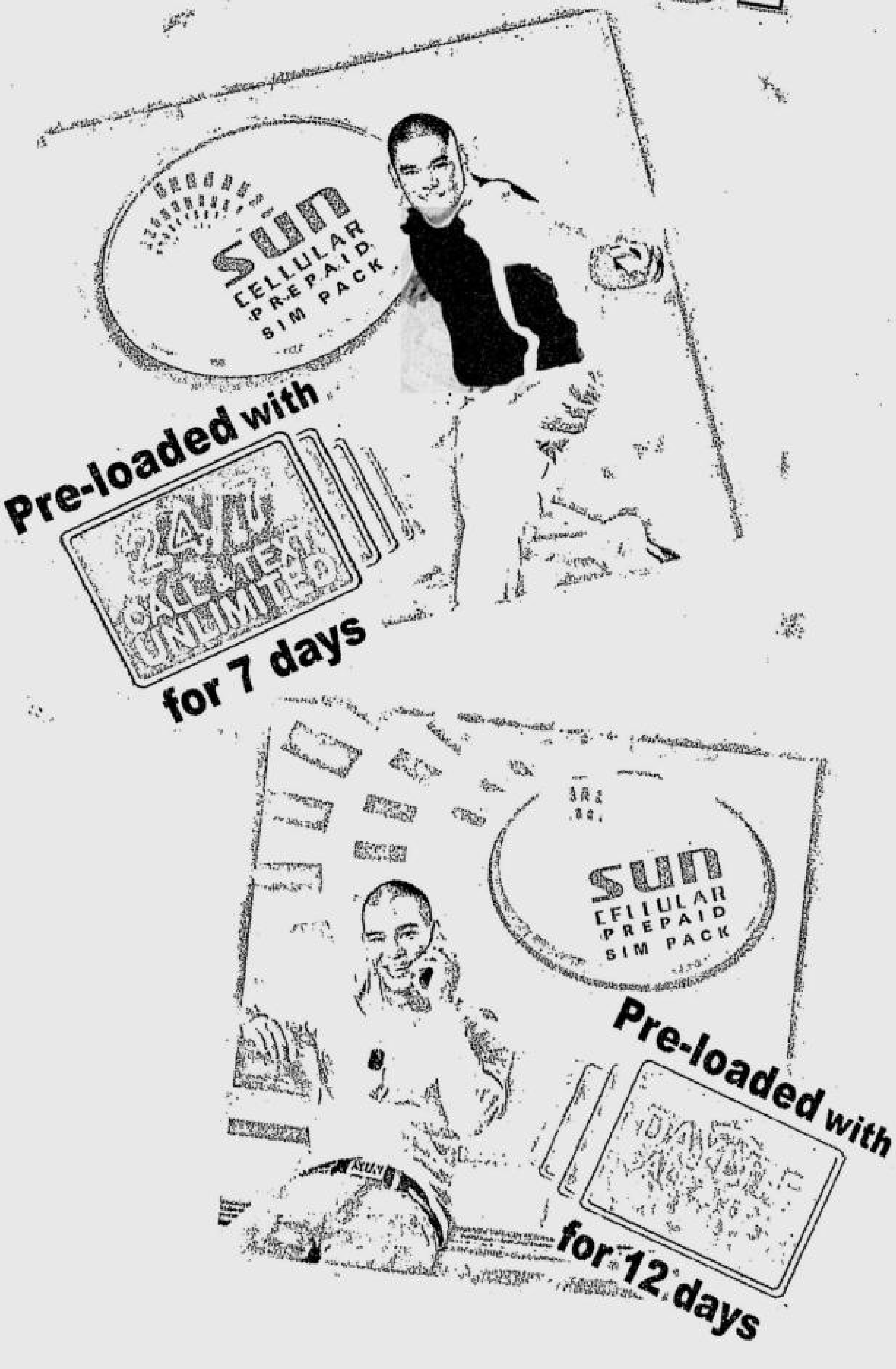
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- RICHARD CORLISS

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WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
CHICKEN LITTLE
ON NOV. 30 WE'LL SEE WHO'S CHICKEN

DISTRIBUTED BY BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL disney.com/chickenlittle ©DISNEY
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENING TODAY

From page A2-1

when he learns that his grandfather has chosen a bride (Geunyoung) for him. Love blossoms, however, against all odds. The movie merited an A from the Asian Cinema Drifter web reviewer: "An infectious debut [for the director]... a surprising jolt to the genre... It manages to address thematic issues amid all the fun."

April Snow

Stars Bae Yong-joon, Son Ye-jin
Directed by Hur Jinho

Yet another import from Korea—this one a romantic tearjerker. A man and a woman discover that their respective spouses have been cheating on them, only after the adulterers figure in a car accident that leaves them comatose. The betrayed man and woman soon fall for each other. Says Yongjoon of his new melodrama: "It's about two people trapped in a desperate situation... I decided to be part of this movie even before the script was finished because of my faith in the director," Hur's previous work was "Christmas in August."

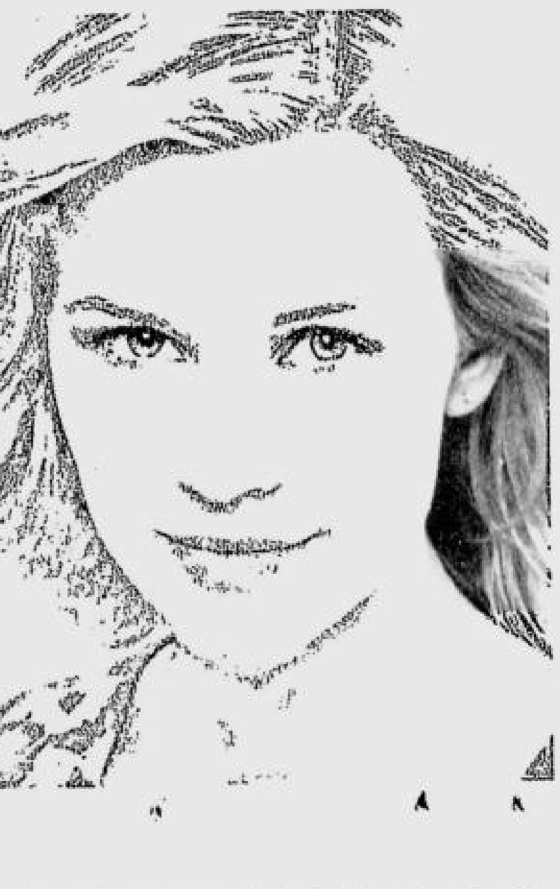
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
No. 1 Top Grossing Korean Romantic Comedy for 2004
Starring Kim Raewon & Moon Geunyoung
Attic Cat Endless Love

"Minsan... kasal muna bago pag-ibig..."
Korea Pictures presents
MY LITTLE BRIDE
A film by Kim Hojun
TAGALOG VERSION
Korea Pictures presents a Culture Cap Media production a film by Kim Hojun starring Kim Raewon & Moon Geunyoung

Theme Song "My Love" by Mocha under XAX Records available at leading records outlets

"This generation's SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE with a twist of GHOST."
reese witherspoon mark ruffalo
Just Like Heaven
MTRCB RATING ▶ G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE



Only love can bring you back...

DREAMWORKS PICTURES
SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON SONY MUSIC SOUNDTRAX
www.JustLikeHeaven-the movie.com
united international pictures
united international release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 30

Falling in love

HEATH Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal in "Brokeback Mountain"

NEW YORK—FOR the producer of "Brokeback Mountain," a real-life romance between Heath Ledger and Michelle Williams was a gift.

"It was a big gift to have two people falling in love in our midst," producer James Schamus told Time magazine in a story about the movie. "You forget how lovely that is."

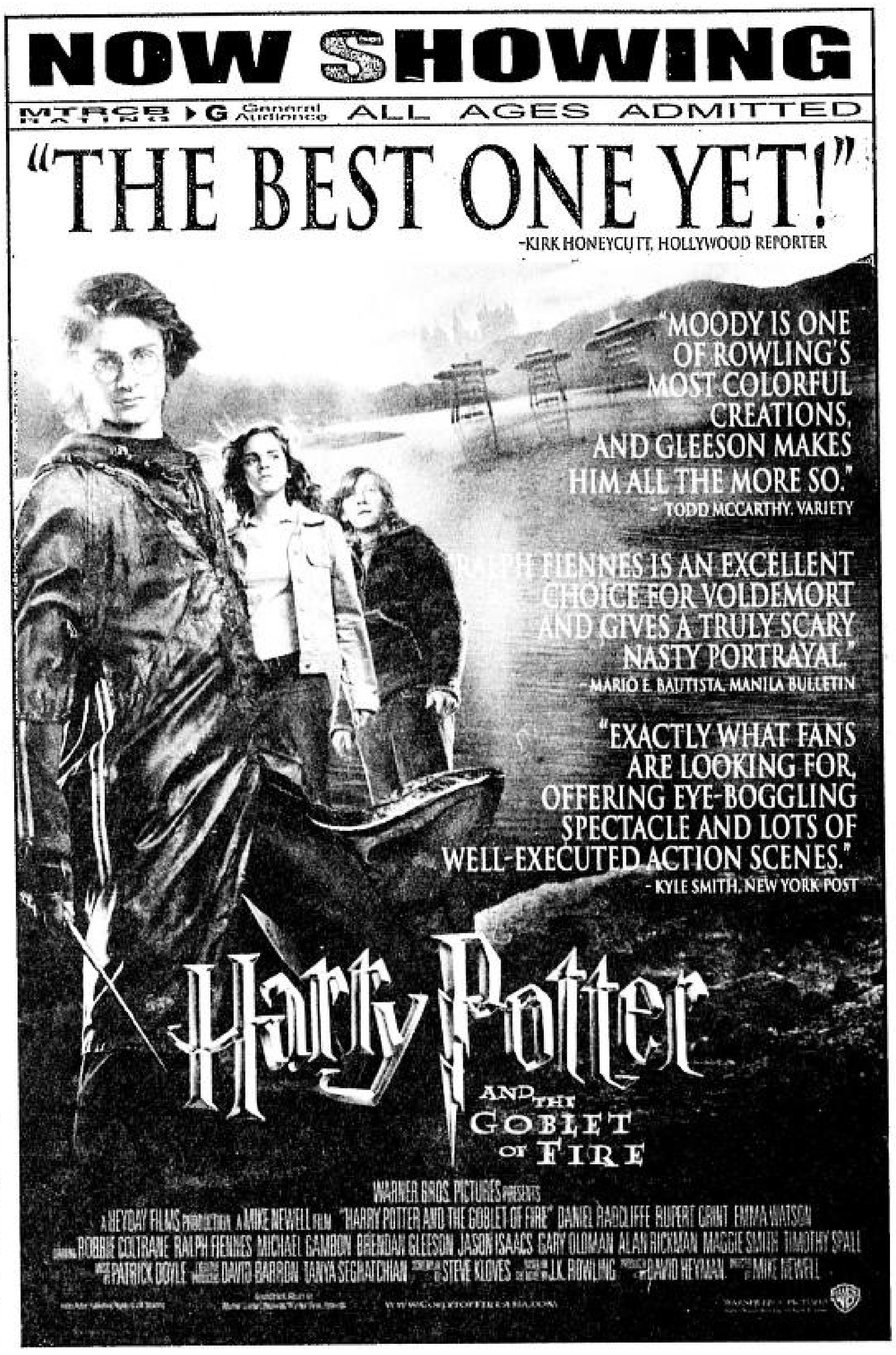
Both known as sexy leading men, Gyllenhaal and Ledger risked alienating audiences and damaging careers by playing gay men having sex on screen. But Gyllenhaal said his profession is about pushing the boundaries of what is considered acceptable.

"As an actor, it's a constant question of whether I will ever get hired again ... (but) this idea is so important, and if that meant for a couple of takes I was going to have to make out with some guy, then so be it," Gyllenhaal said. *AP, Reuters*

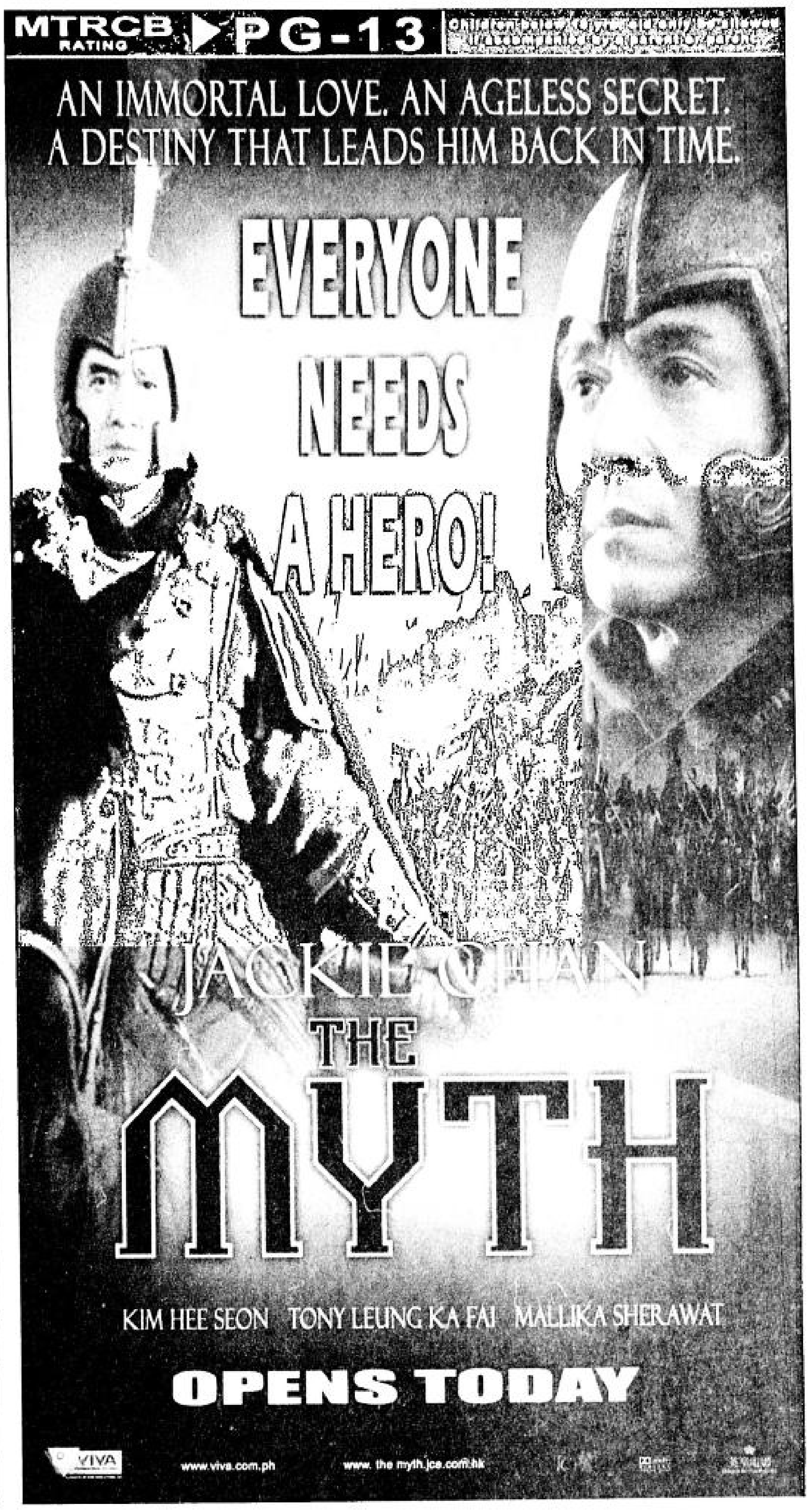
H'wood hopes . . .

From page A2-8

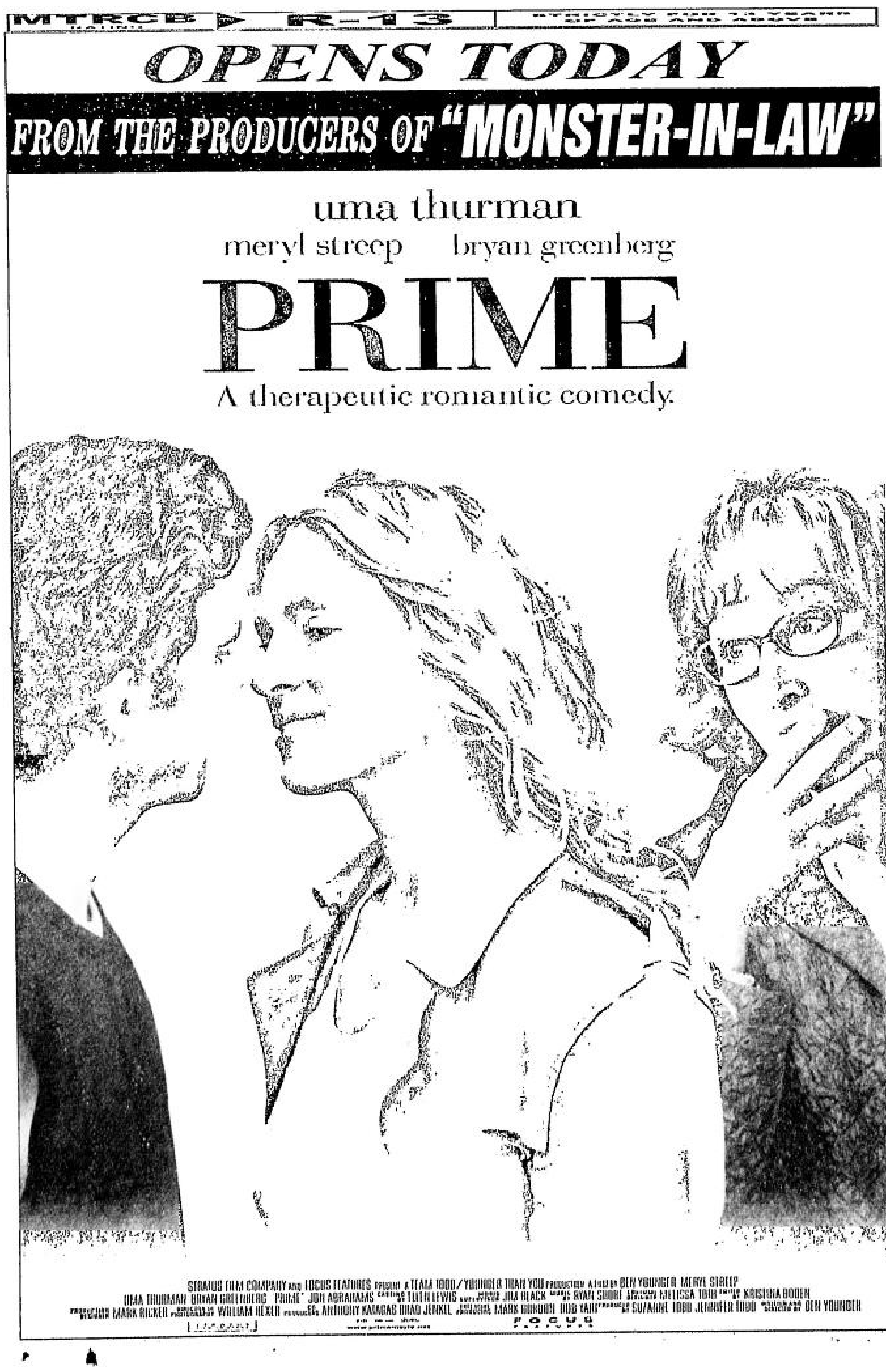
Also in late November and into December come family films like "Yours, Mine and Ours" and "Cheaper by the Dozen 2," comedies "Fun with Dick & Jane" and "The Family Stone" and the musical, "The Producers." *Reuters*



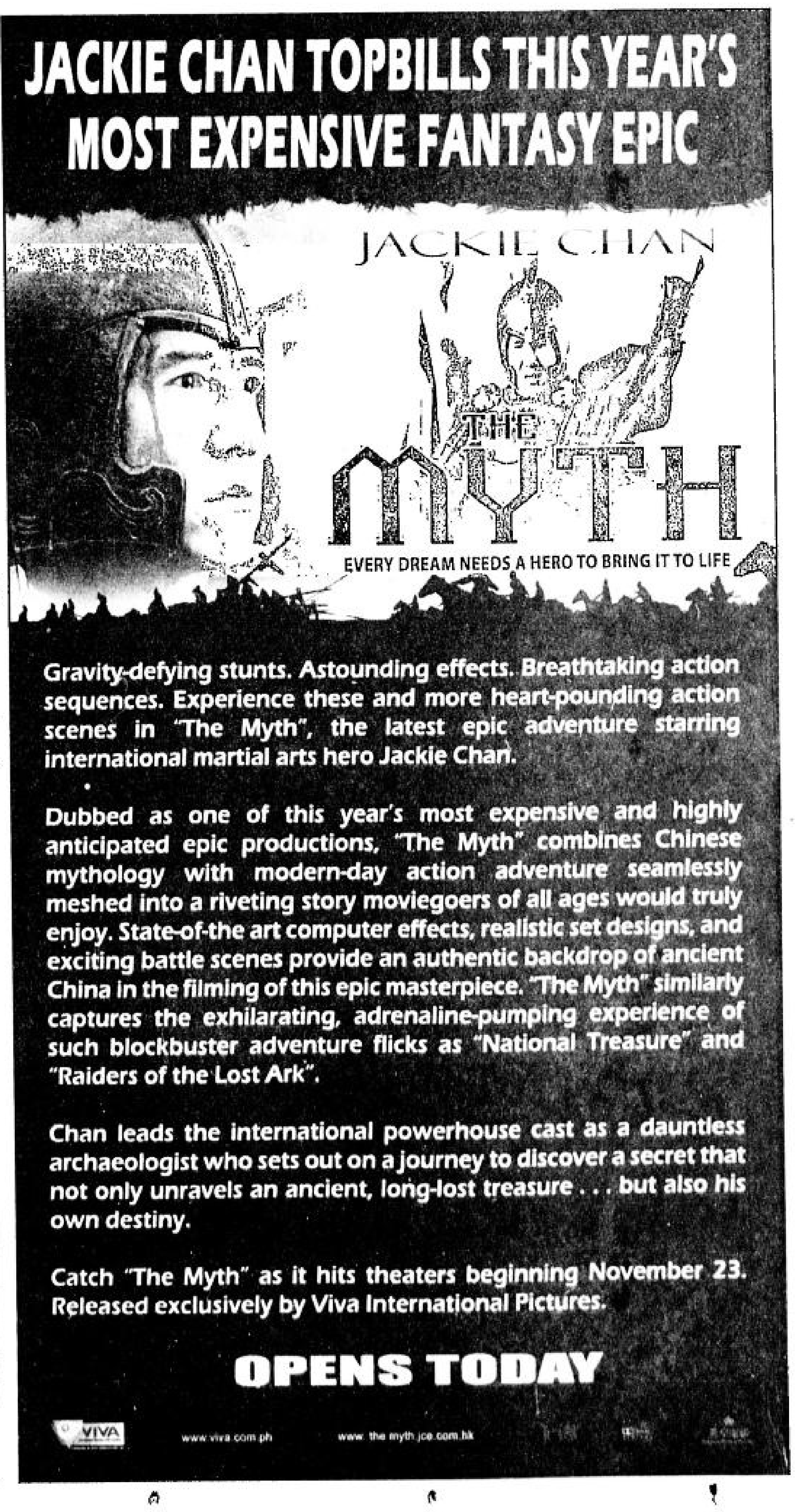
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
"THE BEST ONE YET!"
-KIRK HONEYCUTT, HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
"MOODY IS ONE OF ROWLING'S MOST COLORFUL CREATIONS, AND GLEESON MAKES HIM ALL THE MORE SO."
- TODD MCCARTHY, VARIETY
"RALPH FIENNES IS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR VOLDEMORT AND GIVES A TRULY SCARY NASTY PORTRAYAL."
- MARIO E. BAUTISTA, MANILA BULLETIN
"EXACTLY WHAT FANS ARE LOOKING FOR, OFFERING EYE-BOGGLING SPECTACLE AND LOTS OF WELL-EXECUTED ACTION SCENES."
- KYLE SMITH, NEW YORK POST
Harry Potter AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A HEYDAY FILMS PRODUCTION A MIKE NEWELL FILM "HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE" DANIEL RADCLIFFE RUPERT GRINT EMMA WATSON
ROBBIE COLTRANE RALPH FIENNES MICHAEL GAMBON BRENDAN GLEESON JASON ISAACS GARY OLDMAN ALAN RICKMAN MAGGIE SMITH TIMOTHY SPALL
PATRICK DOYLE DAVID BARRON TANYA SEGHATCHIAN STEVE KLOVES J.K. ROWLING DAVID HEYMAN MIKE NEWELL



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
AN IMMORTAL LOVE. AN AGELESS SECRET. A DESTINY THAT LEADS HIM BACK IN TIME.
EVERYONE NEEDS A HERO!
JACKIE CHAN
THE MYTH
KIM HEE SEON TONY LEUNG KA FAI MALLIKA SHERAWAT
OPENS TODAY
VIVA www.viva.com.ph www. the myth.jce.com.hk



MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
OPENS TODAY
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF "MONSTER-IN-LAW"
uma thurman
meryl streep bryan greenberg
PRIME
A therapeutic romantic comedy.
FOCUS



JACKIE CHAN TOPBILLS THIS YEAR'S MOST EXPENSIVE FANTASY EPIC
JACKIE CHAN
THE MYTH
EVERY DREAM NEEDS A HERO TO BRING IT TO LIFE

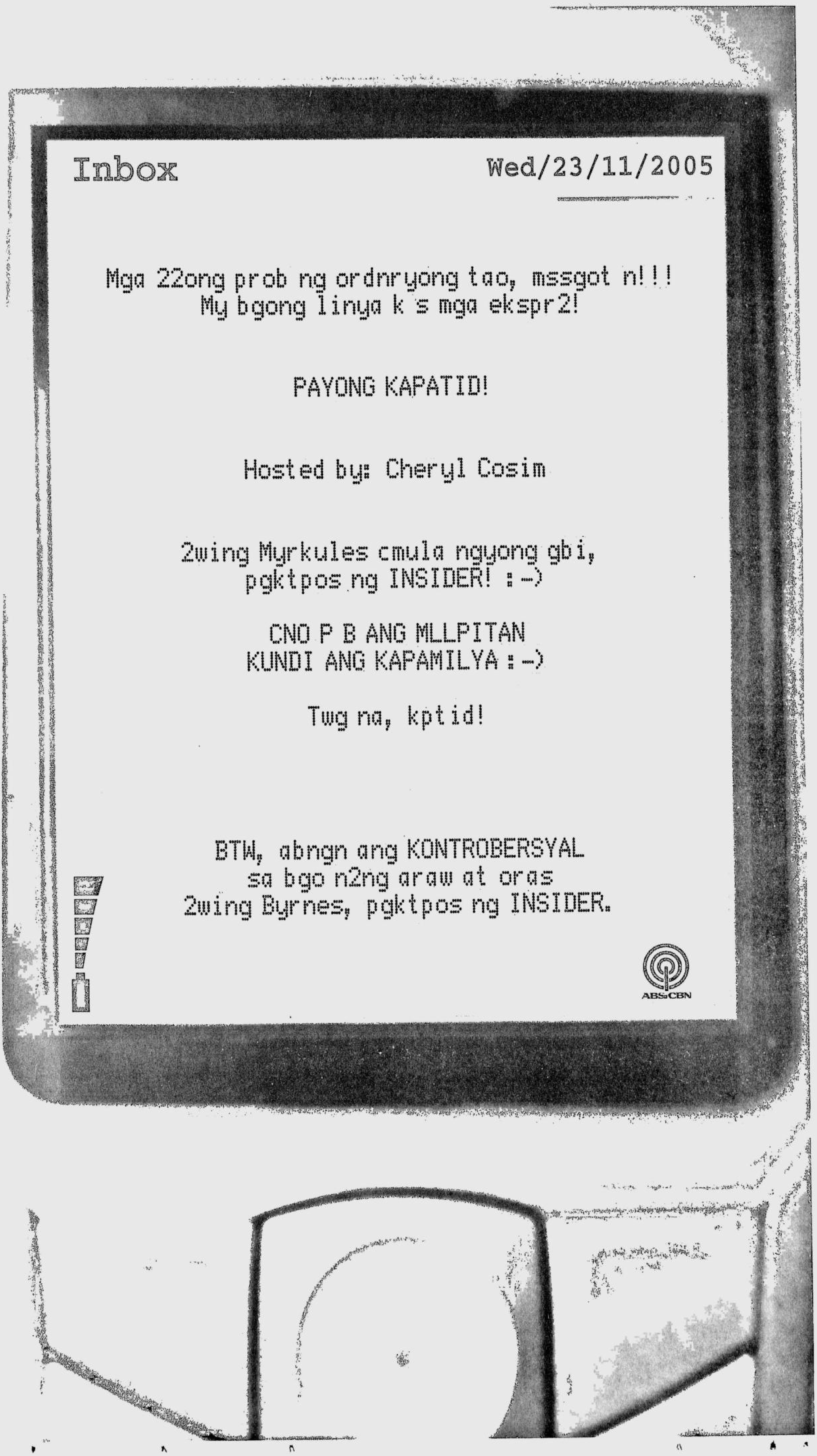
Gravity-defying stunts. Astounding effects. Breathtaking action sequences. Experience these and more heart-pounding action scenes in "The Myth", the latest epic adventure starring international martial arts hero Jackie Chan.

Dubbed as one of this year's most expensive and highly anticipated epic productions, "The Myth" combines Chinese mythology with modern-day action adventure seamlessly meshed into a riveting story moviegoers of all ages would truly enjoy. State-of-the art computer effects, realistic set designs, and exciting battle scenes provide an authentic backdrop of ancient China in the filming of this epic masterpiece. "The Myth" similarly captures the exhilarating, adrenaline-pumping experience of such blockbuster adventure flicks as "National Treasure" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark".

Chan leads the international powerhouse cast as a dauntless archaeologist who sets out on a journey to discover a secret that not only unravels an ancient, long-lost treasure . . . but also his own destiny.

Catch "The Myth" as it hits theaters beginning November 23. Released exclusively by Viva International Pictures.

OPENS TODAY
VIVA www.viva.com.ph www. the myth.jce.com.hk



Inbox Wed/23/11/2005

Mga 22ong prob ng ordnryong tao, mssgot n!!!
My bgong linya k s mga ekspr2!

PAYONG KAPATID!

Hosted by: Cheryl Cosim

2wing Myrkules cmula ngyong gbi,
pgktpos ng INSIDER! :-)

CNO P B ANG MLLPITAN
KUNDI ANG KAPAMILYA :-)

Twg na, kptid!

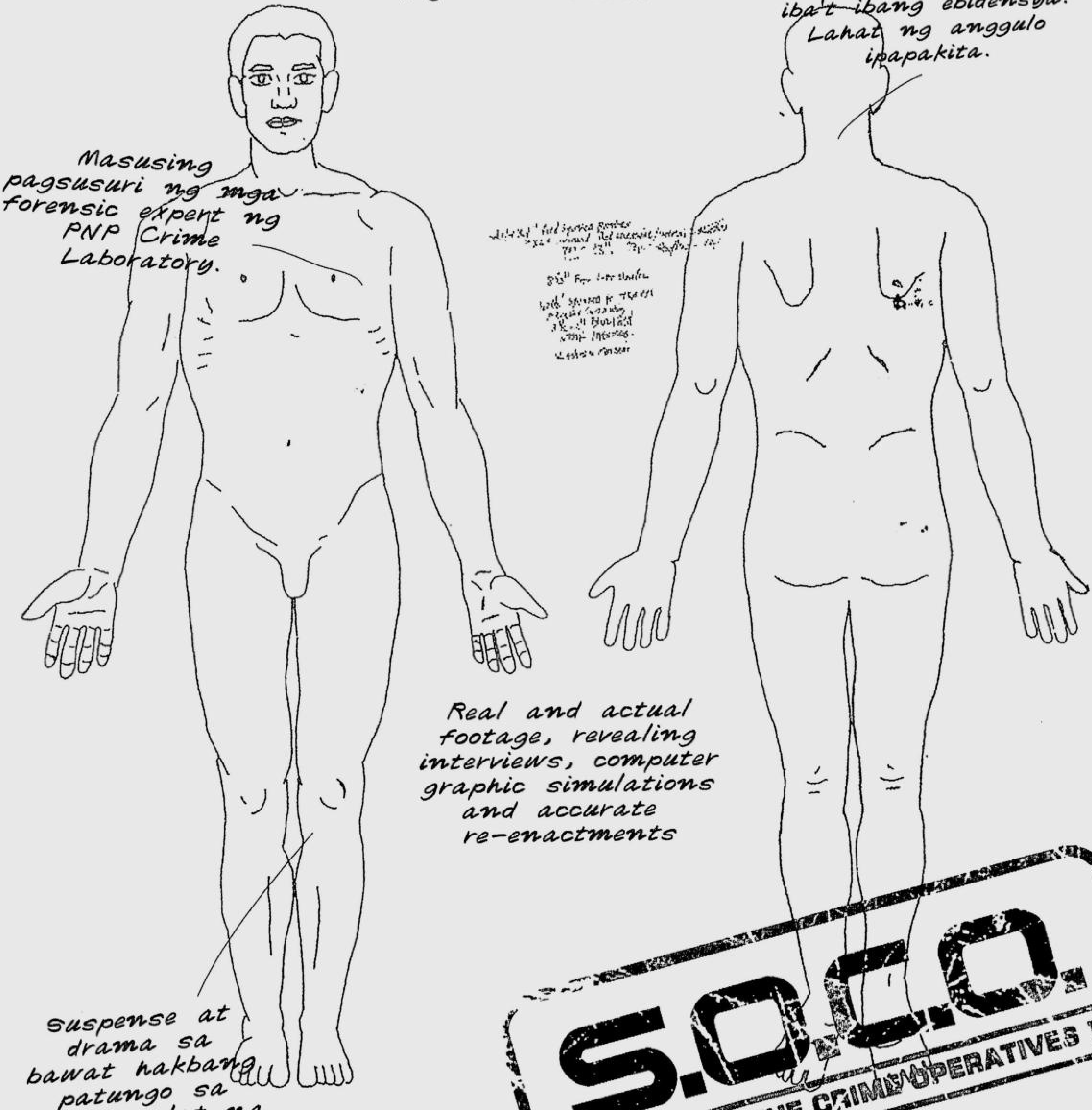
BTW, abngn ang KONTROBERSYAL
sa bgo n2ng araw at oras
2wing Byrnes, pgktpos ng INSIDER.

ABS-CBN
NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF [illegible]

Hango sa mga totoong police investigation.

Kasama ang beteranong police reporter GUS ABELGAS at ang ABS-CBN news production team na sinanay sa crime scene preservation, systematic evidence gathering at ang pagdodokumento nito.



Iba't ibang testimonya, iba't ibang ebidensya. Lahat ng anggulo ipapakita.

Masusing pagsusuri ng mga forensic expert ng PNP Crime Laboratory.

Real and actual footage, revealing interviews, computer graphic simulations and accurate re-enactments

Suspense at drama sa bawat hakbang patungo sa nakakagulat na katotohanan.

2-16-[illegible]

Deputy Medical Examiner

S.O.C.O.
[SCENE OF THE CRIME OPERATIVES]

Premieres
November 23 • Wednesday
After Primetime Bida

HINDI NAGSISINUNGALING ANG EBIDENSYA

Pointsettias, without much of further ado and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: HOW DID YOU FEEL DURING THE competition finals before your victory was announced?

Guest: Honestly, although I tried not to show it, I was so tench!

(Yes, your teeth are clenched even now!)

* * *

Host: Did she win because she was so tall?

Guest: No, I want to correct something: she's really not that tall, but the important thing is, she exudes height!

(How do you—exude height?!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What's the name of the flying machine that's also called the chopper?

Contestant: Airplane!

(No, helicopter)

* * *

Quizmaster: What's the plural of *daga*?

Contestant: Cat!

(No, *mga daga*)

* * *

Host: We're about to visit our special guest's beautiful mansion. So, can you do the honors?

Guest: By all means! Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to step into my mansion, so without much of further—ado!

(*—May kulang yata?*)

* * *

Host: Are you happy with the result of the investigation?

Guest: Very happy. I feel I have been validified!

(Hey, we think you've coined a new word!)

* * *

Host: Do you think our candidate is beautiful?

Guest: Beautiful? Oh, which I'm agree!

(Thanks for being so—enthusiastic!)

* * *

Host: What do we need to do to settle the controversy over the so-called shootout?

Guest: The most basic is, we need to assume the bodies of the people in the car.

(Assume the bodies? —Oh, exhume!)

* * *

Host: What are the most popular flowering plants for Christmas?

Guest: Oh, the ones with the red—what do you call?—oh, pointsettias!

(No, that's *not* what they're called.)

* * *

Host: What is your group planning to do about the directive against blind musicians playing in malls?

Guest: *Magpe*-petition *po kami, kasi mawawalan ng hanapbuhay ang mga may kapansanan sa pagtugtog!*

(*May kapansanan sa pagtugtog?—Ano yon?*)

* * *

Host: What are the prizes in your cooking competition?

Guest: The winner gets to take off P5,000!

(Ok, but what does he *win*?)

* * *

Host: Are you really a home wrecker, as some reports accuse you?

Guest: *Hindi, no, wala akong kaugnayan sa* married *man na 'yon, na* blown up proportion *lang!*

(Ah, so...)

* * *

Host: How do you like your makeover?

Guest: *Nakakagulat!* First time *ko kasi nagpa*-hair.

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: How can we assure our people that the coming Christmas season will be peaceful?

Guest: There's no 100 percent in this day of terrorism, but we in government will do our best, I punish you that.

(One man's promise is another man's punish—ment!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What's the first name of the mother of Jose Rizal?

Contestant: Melchora!

(No, Teodora)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the English translation of Misa de Gallo?

Contestant: Mass of the Chicken!

(No, Mass of the Rooster—there's difference.)

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PAPARAZZI
ONE GOOD SHOT DESERVES ANOTHER

Meet the successful Bo Laramie, who realized that stardom comes with a price, as four persistent photographers had their dishonest ways just to get his every move.

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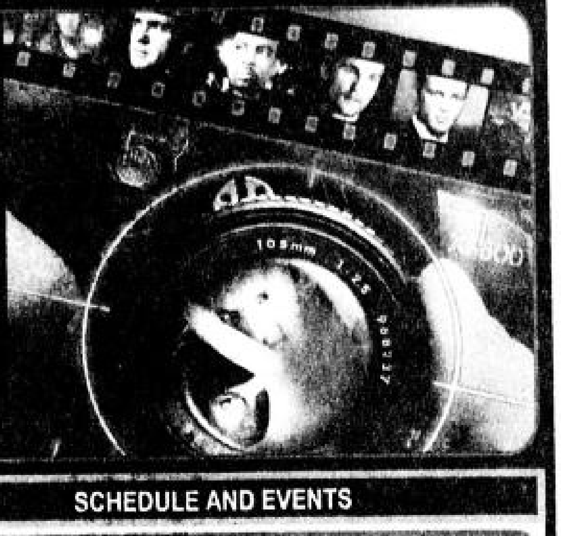
North EDSA, Megamall, Sta. Mesa, Fairview, Manila, Las Piñas, Bacoor, Cebu, Davao, and Pampanga

Released by MAGNAVISION



movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS
NOW SHOWING

1 April Snow
2 The Exorcism of Emily Rose
3 Prime
4 My Little Bride
5 The Myth

PREMIERE
Megamall HARI NG SABLAY Nov. 26 • Cinema 3
Megamall ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Nov. 29 • Cinema 4
Manila JUST LIKE HEAVEN Nov. 28 • Cinema 6
Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 1 • Cinema 2
Megamall THE FOG Dec. 5 • Cinema 1

GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:40FS/12:10MF/03:20/06:30
09:10LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END
2 PRIME
11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END

MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:00FS/11:30MF/02:40/05:50
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11:55FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
2 THE MYTH
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:12LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 FOUR BROTHERS
11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30
09:18LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END

SM MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 THE MYTH
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 PRIME
7 PAPARAZZI
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 APRIL SNOW
12 MY LITTLE BRIDE

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 PAPARAZZI
5 THE MYTH
6 MY LITTLE BRIDE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 PRIME
9 APRIL SNOW
10 LEGEND OF ZORR

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 DUBAI

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 PAPARAZZI
2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 PRIME
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MYTH
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 APRIL SNOW

[illegible]
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 PAPARAZZI
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 PRIME
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 MY LITTLE BRIDE
10 APRIL SNOW

[illegible]
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 PRIME
4 APRIL SNOW
5 PAPARAZZI
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MYTH

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 PAPARAZZI
7 APRIL SNOW
8 FLIGHTPLAN
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 PRIME

[illegible]
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 PRIME
5 THE MYTH
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 DOMINO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 THE MYTH

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CRY WOLF
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

SM CITY BACOOR
1 MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
9 PAPARAZZI

SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 CRY WOLF
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE
6 THE GHOST INSIDE
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

SM CITY ILOILO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 UNDISCOVERED
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 WAITING
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 THE GHOST INSIDE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 THE MYTH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
4 DOOM

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CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND • EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 PRIME P13
CINEMA 4 The EXORCISM of Emily Rose PG13
CINEMA 5 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP
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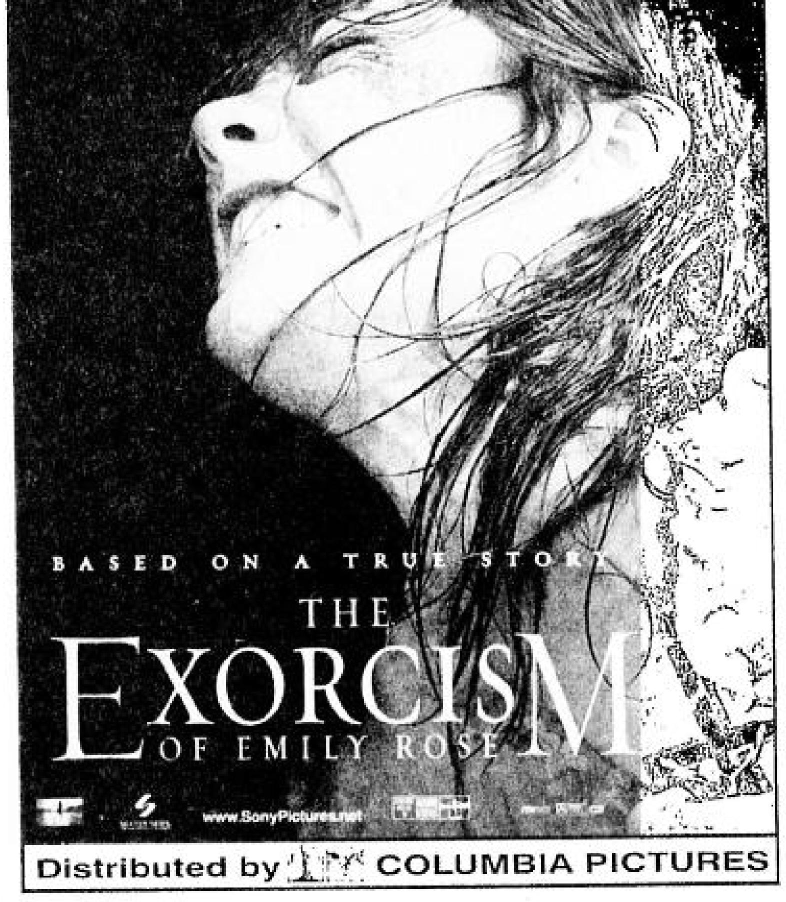
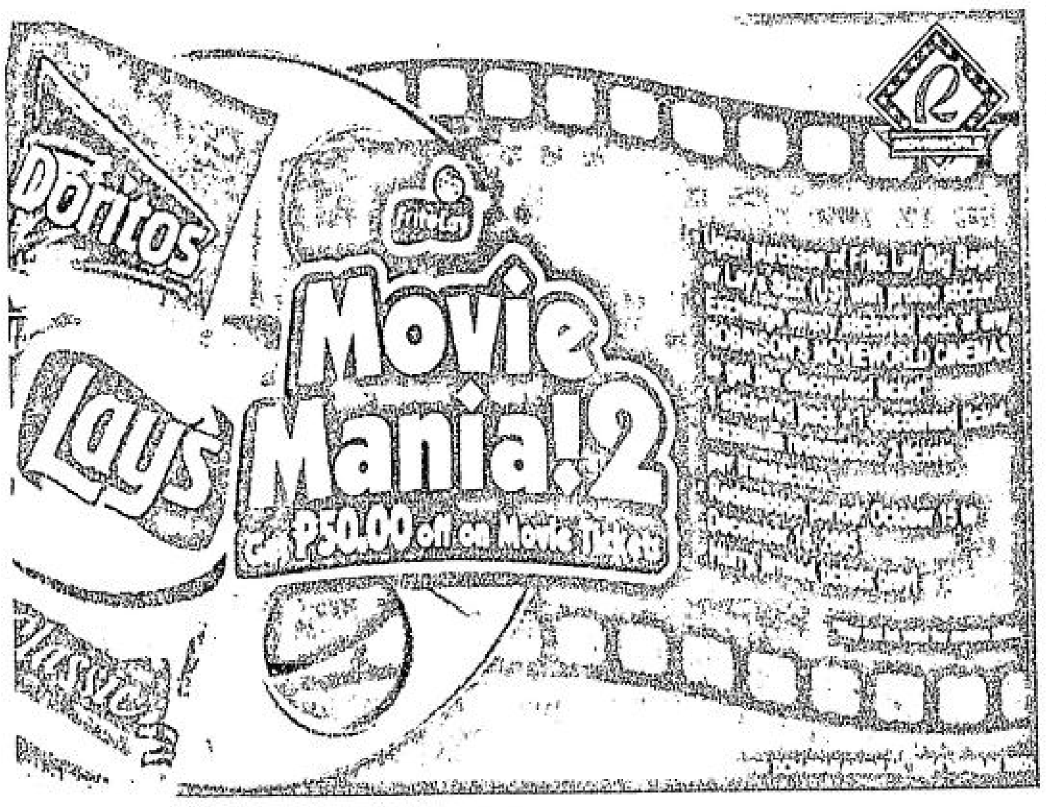
MUSIC MUSEUM
November 24, 2005 LANCE REYMUNDO 8PM
November 25, 2005 JIMMY BONDOC 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

OPENS TODAY
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



BASED ON A TRUE STORY
THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES



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Get P50.00 off on Movie Tickets

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway Cineplex 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:40 / 1:20 / 2:20 / 3:40 / 4:20
5:20 / 6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 9:40
PRIME
1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
THE MYTH
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
APRIL SNOW
MY LITTLE BRIDE
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
FLIGHT PLAN
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET
1:20 / 4:30 / 7:40
2 THE MYTH
12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
5 PRIME
12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
Nov 23 Wed
COCA COLA vs AIR 21 4:40 pm
SAN MIGUEL vs ALASKA 7:25 pm
KARYLLE, KYLA & AIZA - AYUZ! CONCERT
November 25 Friday 8pm

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GALLERIA 632-91[illegible]

1 HARRY POTTER 4 • THX
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 THE PRIME
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
8 FLIGHTPLAN
9 MY LITTLE BRIDE
10 FOUR BROTHERS

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 THE PRIME
5 HARRY POTTER 4
6 THE MYTH
7 APRIL SNOW

METRO EAST 682-8183 • 682-8189

1 APRIL SNOW
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER 4
4 HARRY POTTER 4
5 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 MY LITTLE BRIDE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 THE PRIME

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

1 THE MYTH
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE
5 FLIGHTPLAN
6 APRIL SNOW

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 DOMINO
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 RESERVE
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4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

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2 THE MYTH
3 DOMINO
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

ANGELES (045) 892-[illegible]

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4 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL

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3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
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5 DOMINO

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4 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
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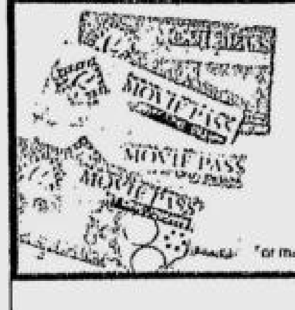
2 THE DESCENT
3 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
4 THE CORPSE BRIDE



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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	THE MYTH	THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	FLIGHTPLAN	APRIL SNOW	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	PRIME
GB1 GREENBELT 1	THE MYTH	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE GUARANTEED SEATS	THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS	PRIME GUARANTEED SEATS	THE MYTH GUARANTEED SEATS	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	PRIME	THE MYTH		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	THE MYTH	FOUR BROTHERS			

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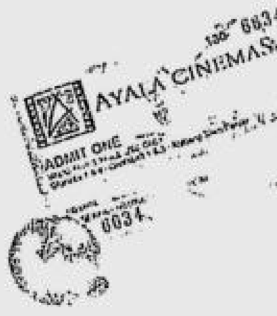

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H'wood hopes for big year-end season

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD EXECUTIVES ARE biting their nails and hoping for a big year-end movie season.

Holiday movies kicked off on Friday with the latest "Harry Potter" film leading a pack of big-budget flicks seeking huge payoffs at box offices. Other movies, like Mideast saga "Syriana," aim for the Oscars.

Ticket sales are down for 2005 after a host of summer films bombed, so the major studios are counting on fantasy films "Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire," "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and a "King Kong" remake to restore moviegoers' faith.

"The pressure is on," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office watcher Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. "This holiday season is being held to a high standard in terms of quality, and in terms of the box office."

But "Potter" is not the only big movie this week. "Walk the Line," about country music icons Johnny Cash and June Carter, also debuted in theaters, blending music with the story of their romance and early recording careers.

Performers Joaquin Phoenix, who plays Cash, and Reese Witherspoon, who co-stars as Carter, already are being talked about for Oscars, and the movie is on the must-see list for award watchers.

"Syriana," starring George Clooney and Matt Damon, also has Oscar aspirations. Writer-director Stephen Gaghan, who wrote 2000's drug war movie "Traffic," brings a contemporary story of the Middle East to movie screens.

"It tackles, hopefully in an interesting way, things that are going on right now. We're talking about oil and oil politics, about the war on terror and about how families are adapting to those issues," Gaghan said.

Awards watch

Also on the Oscar front before December will come "Rent," based on the hit Broadway musical about young New Yorkers.

Those films join titles like "Good Night, and Good Luck," "Shopgirl," and "Capote," which are now playing in theaters and have award ambitions for their actors—David Strathairn as Edward R. Murrow in "Good Night, and Good Luck," Claire Danes in "Shopgirl" and Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Capote."

December movies on the awards watch list include "Memoirs of a Geisha," based on the popular novel about a Japanese geisha, and "Brokeback Mountain," which tells of the overwhelming power of love in a romance between two cowboys, played by Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger.

Other movies with Oscar ambition now starting to make the rounds in Hollywood screening rooms include Woody Allen's romance "Match Point" and Steven Spielberg's "Munich," about the aftermath of the Palestinian attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics.

Few Oscar hopefuls produce the $100 million-plus paydays Hollywood needs to get back on its star-studded feet, but if there are two this year, they are "Narnia" and "King Kong."

Both movies debut in early December to get a jump on Christmas movie-going and are filled with special effects.

"Narnia" is based on the children's books by C.S. Lewis that are populated by talking animals and tell of epic battles between good and evil that have a strong Christian slant. "Kong" derives its story from the popular tale of an enormous gorilla let loose to ravage mankind and is made by "Lord of the Rings" director Peter Jackson.

H'WOOD/ A2-3

Harry casts spell on US, Canada

LOS ANGELES—"HARRY POTTER AND the Goblet of Fire" grossed $101.4 million in its debut weekend, according to studio estimates.

"Goblet of Fire" was the fourth-best, three-day opening weekend ever, behind "Spider-Man" at $114.8M in 2002 and "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith" and "Shrek 2," at $108M apiece.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., official box-office trackers:

1) "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," $101.4M; 2) "Walk the Line," $22.4M; 3) "Chicken Little," $14.8M; 4) "Derailed," $6.5M; 5) "Zathura," $5.1M; 6) "Jarhead," $4.8M; 7) "Get Rich or Die Tryin," $4.4M; 8) "Saw II," $3.9M; 9) "The Legend of Zorro," $2.3M; 10) "Pride & Prejudice," $2.1M. *AP*

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B1

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WHAT'S INSIDE

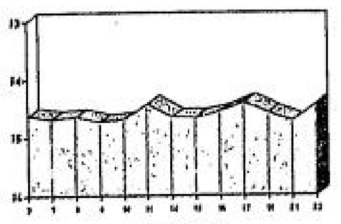
Unilab heir joins Del Monte battle /B3

PAL records $4.5-M loss in Q3 /B2

DBP raising $300M for Naia 3 buyout

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER

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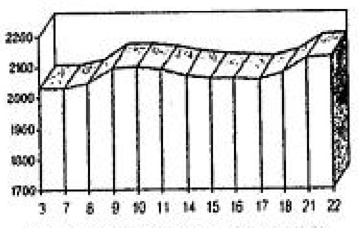
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 22, 2005

GOLD: $491.80-492.30

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 22, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares rise to new 8-mo high

SHARES ROSE FOR A THIRD DAY to reach an eight-month high yesterday as investors accumulated select blue chips.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 4.37 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,130.93, its best finish since March 11, when it closed at 2,137.39. The advance brought to 3.6 percent the total in-

SHARES/ B5

'Just compensation' for Piatco

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES is preparing a $300-$400 million loan facility for the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) to compensate spurned Naia Terminal 3 proponent Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco).

Piatco was forced out of the Naia 3 build-operate contract by the Supreme Court in a ruling issued in May 2003 on grounds that the deal was "grossly disadvantageous" to the government.

Banking sources said DBP was preparing a 10- to 15-year loan to the Miaa that would be backed by zero-coupon government bonds.

"It's still being structured," a banker said.

Other sources said the airport authority was now raising the funds needed to buy out Piatco while awaiting a ruling by the courts on how much the "just compensation" would be.

Takenaka Corp., which built the terminal, said the consortium spent $290 million to put up Naia 3, but Piatco claimed it spent $650 million.

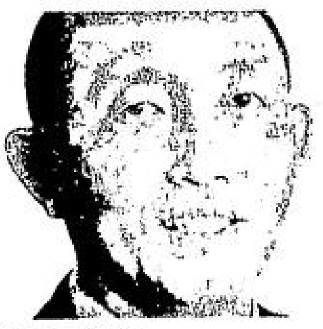
The government plans to open the Naia 3, which is now 98-percent complete, by March

DBP/ B5

NINOY Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 PDI PHOTO

Smart exec says crisis over

By Clarissa S. Batino



NAZARENO

THE WORST IS OVER FOR SMART as far the the management crisis sparked by the resignation of two executives last week was concerned.

So says Smart president Napoleon Nazareno, who added that management acted swiftly during the weekend to restore balance in a house rocked last week by the resignations.

He said he had met with all the department heads and that the company would now be moving forward.

"October was a very good month for us in terms of revenue and bottom line," he said in an interview. "November is also trending very favorably."

Smart made more than P20 billion in profits in the first nine months this year from its 20.8 million subscribers.

A good fourth quarter for Smart ensures that its parent firm, PLDT, will exceed its P32-billion net income target this year.

Nazareno, who himself was unwittingly dragged into the infighting, said the mobile company was

SMART/ B2

FOR CAPEX REQUIREMENT

Napocor sells ₱11B in bonds

By Michelle V. Remo

CASH-STRAPPED NATIONAL POWER CORP. (Napocor) yesterday sold P11 billion worth of zero-coupon bonds, generating money for its remaining capital expenditure requirements for the year.

With the debts guaranteed by the national government, Napocor easily raised its intended borrowing of P11 billion. Investors swamped the auction held at the Bureau of Treasury with bids totaling P14.72 billion. The bonds were sold with a yield of 9.875 percent.

"I am happy with the result of the auction. It (result) was better than our expectation," said Nieves Osorio, head of the Private Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. She said the 9.875-percent yield of the bonds was 50 basis points lower than the government's forecast.

Noni Bernardo, Napocor's chief finance officer, said yesterday's bond auction placed the power firm's total borrowings for the year at $600 million. Of the amount, $400 million came from foreign sources, while the remaining $200 million was from local creditors.

Napocor officials noted the power firm's improving financial condition. Bernardo said that from the P117 billion in losses in 2003, the power firm was able to trim the figure down to only P29.9 billion in 2004.

It should be noted, however, that the increase in Napocor's losses to its highest level of P117 billion in 2003 partly had to do with the adoption of new accounting standards that required Napocor to book all foreign exchange losses as it incurred them. This means that all foreign exchange losses that the power firm incurred in 2003, together with past foreign exchange losses that were still unrecorded, were registered in its 2003 financial records. Under the old accounting prac-

NAPOCOR/ B2

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HIGHER OPERATING EXPENSES

PAL records $4.5-M loss in Q3

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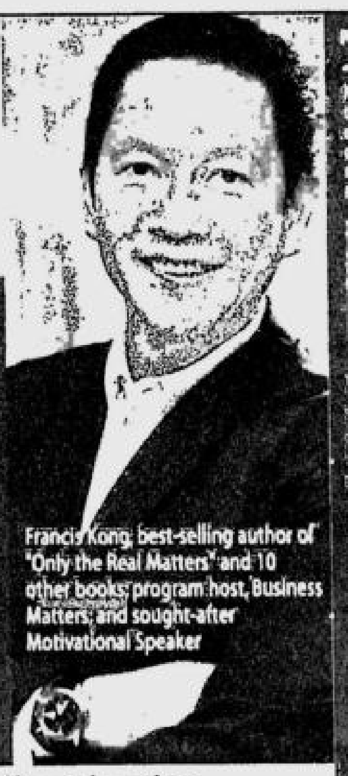

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"Dealing with Corporate Corruption from the Bottom, Up-Insights and Lessons from 2005 Executives' Attitudes on Corporate Corruption" by Dr Ned Roberto, Chairman & President, Roberto & Associates, Inc. Dr Ned Roberto shares the results of his much-talked about 2005 Corporate Corruption Survey and gives practical advice on what leaders and managers CAN DO about unethical leadership. Dr Ned has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for top companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Dr Ned is also the founder and Chairman of Market Research Solutions, Inc. a new generation market research company.

"The Anatomy of a Leader" by Yoly Ong, Chair, Campaigns and Grey. Yoly Ong's leadership has been key to the success of Campaigns-the advertising agency she founded 19 years ago. Beyond billings, industry awards and HRD survey results, she actually measures success by how the entire team works together to achieve common goals, then shares in the rewards of work well done. At the 6th ALS, Yoly shares how her insights on what makes a great leader, as well as personal anecdotes on her journey of leadership with integrity.

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Bringing out the BEST in you

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HIGHER OPERATING expenses caused flag carrier Philippine Airlines of taipan Lucio Tan to incur a net loss of $4.5 million in the quarter ending September.

This was a reversal from the profit of $3.9 million recorded in the same period last year, according to its financial report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The report showed that PAL posted a 5 percent increase in net operating revenues in the quarter ending September to $242.6 million from last year's $230.4 million, due to an increase in passenger revenues by 7 percent or $13.1 million.

PAL's fiscal year ends on March 31, making July to September its second quarter.

International revenues, on the other hand, grew 5.8 percent to $194.4 million between July and September from $184.7 million in the same quarter last year.

Domestic revenues also picked in the quarter by 2.7 percent to $43.65 million from $42.5 million in the same quarter last year.

The revenues were offset, however, by higher operating expenses.

Operating costs rose 9 percent or $19.5 million to $227.8 million from the previous quarter's total of $208.3 million due to higher maintenance expenses and fuel costs.

Higher aircraft, component and engine repair costs incurred during the airline's second quarter expanded maintenance cost by 47 percent or $16.4 milion from last year's $35.2 million.

Fuel costs, on the other hand, grew 6 percent or $3.6 million from the same quarter last year due to higher fuel consumption and the spike in average fuel prices to $52.13 a barrel of aviation fuel from $49.54 a barrel last year.

As of September, total assets hit $2.16 billion, an increase of 6 percent from $2 billion at end-March.

Total liabilities, on the other hand, grew 2 percent to $1.94 billion in September.

Napocor sells P11B in bonds

From page B1

tice, Napocor could spread out foreign exchange losses it incurred over several years.

Osorio said the national government expected Napocor to break even this year.

The national government decided recently to absorb P200 billion in debts of Napocor in line with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), which is aimed at making the power sector attractive to investors by making them as debt-free as possible.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 22, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	44,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	35	34	34.5	737,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	60	60.5	59	60	456,000
China Banking Corp.	610	615	610	615	88,680
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.64	2,750,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	54.5	54.5	54.5	107,400
International Exch. Bank	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.5	214,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30	31	2,164,800
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	44,300
Phil. Savings Bank	34	34	34	34	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	18,000
Security Bank Corp.	36.5	36.5	36	36.5	592,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	32	31	31	49,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25	25	25	25	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3075	3075	3075	3075	600
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	137	137	136	136	2,600
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2070	2070	2070	2070	550
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	50,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.95	2,920,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	770	750	770	114,670
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	132,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	22,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.45	5,309,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1800	1765	1780	80,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	1,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	21,600
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.5	23	23.5	1,009,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	5,459,000
Petron Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.25	4.3	5,622,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	105,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	250,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	127,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	75,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.67	0.7	0.67	0.68	4,780,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3,990,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.6	19,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	9,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39.5	39.5	39	39	354,100
Pancake House Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.5	3.55	386,000
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	340,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	31,500
San Miguel Corp. B	90	90	89	89.5	9,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	17.5	28,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	520,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	13,000,000
Ayala Corp.	345	362.5	345	352.5	345,440
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	310,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	785,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	3,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	1,197,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	620,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	600,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	40,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.14	7,411,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	120,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	40,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.29	0.26	0.28	6,750,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.25	3.3	2,335,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.2	1.2	101,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51	51	50	51	345,800
House Of Investments Inc.	0.85	0.88	0.85	0.88	250,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	1,150,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.7	106,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	600,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	7,016,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	21,970,000
Paxys Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.3	3,707,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	620,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	210,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	4,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	450,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	260	252.5	252.5	494,570
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0825	0.085	0.0825	0.085	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	5,680,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,450,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	60,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Pryce Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.08	22,183,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.52	1,188,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	531,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,550,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN HLDGS. Corp. (PDR)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	112,600
PLDT (10% PREF) Series N	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	600
PLDT (10% PREF) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% PREF) Series P	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	700
PLDT (10% PREF) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% PREF) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% PREF) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% PREF Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.8	10	9.8	9.8	10,626,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	64,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.16	1.08	1.12	1,934,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	17,050,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	1,120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	10,300,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	5,145,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	390,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	639,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	580,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.56	1.38	1.4	841,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.9	18,203,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.96	0.98	0.95	0.95	150,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	30,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	86,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	2,562,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	26,000
Benguet Corp. B	35.5	37	35.5	37	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	9,980,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	3,480,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	93,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	216,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	1,430,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.42	4,903,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	28.5	27	28.5	1,523,600
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	80,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	3,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.75	21,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.145	0.145	8,210,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	300,000

CURRENCIES

November 22, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.852442	1.000000	54.686
Japan	Yen	0.007166	0.008407	0.4597
United Kingdom	Pound	1.464070	1.717500	93.923
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.109945	0.128976	7.053
Switzerland	Franc	0.646083	0.757920	41.447
Canada	Dollar	0.720881	0.845666	46.2461
Singapore	Dollar	0.501909	0.588789	32.198
Australia	Dollar	0.627211	0.735781	40.236
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.261660	2.653153	145.090
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227305	0.266652	14.582
Brunei	Dollar	0.500436	0.587061	32.104
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000100	0.005
Thailand	Baht	0.020690	0.024272	1.327
UAE	Dirham	0.232089	0.272264	14.889
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.173100	64.152
Argentina	Peso	0.290194	0.340426	18.616
Brazil	Real	0.384867	0.451488	24.690
Denmark	Kroner	0.134042	0.157245	8.599
India	Rupee	0.018628	0.021853	1.195
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225573	0.264620	14.471
Mexico	New Peso	0.080072	0.093932	5.136
New Zealand	Dollar	0.587081	0.688705	37.662
South Africa	Rand	0.128351	0.150568	8.234
Korea	Won	0.000822	0.000964	0.052
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025393	0.029789	1.629

Smart exec

From page B1

a well-run institution that transcended any person or group.

"Smart is a well-oiled machine that had catapulted itself into a No. 1 position in the industry by a team of 5,000 people who had worked together," he said. "All of us at Smart have contributed to its success."

Anastacio Martirez, head of personal communications and mobile services at Smart, and chief financial adviser Peter Lawrence resigned last week due to irreconcilable differences.

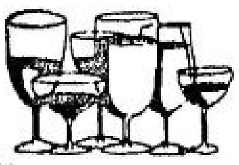
Nazareno said there were n more "resignations" forthcomin

Martirez's departure worri some analysts because he was b lieved to be instrumental in catapul ing Smart to the top in the mobi phone sector. Two of Martirez's trus ed marketing staffers left the comp ny a week before his resignation.

"No doubt Mr. Martirez is great loss. But we are moving fc ward and the rest of the team intact and focusing on their jobs Nazareno said.

Unilab heir joins Del Monte battle

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

UNILAB HEIR JOSE "BUTCH" CAMPOS JR. has partnered with the Lorenzos to ward off a takeover attempt by the First Pacific Group of Del Monte Pacific.

There is one hitch to this newfound alliance though. According to the grapevine, United Laboratories patriach Jose Yao Campos Sr. and his eldest child, Unilab chair Joy Campos-Hess, have rejected Butch's plan for the family to fund the takeover battle.

According to the grapevine, as a result of the family rejection, Butch Campos and the Lorenzos have now been doing the rounds of investment banking houses in the region to raise more than $300 million just to match the First Pacific offer. First Pacific, the Hong Kong-based controlling shareholder of the PLDT and Metro Pacific Group, has offered to buy the 40-percent stake of ailing Italian food group Cirio in Del Monte Pacific for $164 million.

In addition, First Pacific has set aside $150 million for the mandatory general offer for the rest of the shareholders of the Singapore-listed, but Philippine-based food and beverage company.

On the other hand, the family of former agriculture secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., which has a stake of about 21 percent in Del Monte, has a right to match any outside bid for the Cirio stake up to another 21 percent.

The First Pacific Group offer, whose acceptance deadline is Dec. 1, is conditioned on the Lorenzos either selling out or at least not exercising their preemptive right over the Cirio stake.

Both the Lorenzos and Butch Campos, who now runs the family's dominant UFC catsup line, declined attempts to seek their comments.

The Bradish bunch

MANILA Mining lists a Canadian citizen, Charles Bradish, as president of the publicly listed mining company controlled by former PSE chair Felipe Yap.

In earlier company documents, Bradish, who also happens to sit as director of Lepanto, another listed mining company controlled by Yap, used a different first name, Lyndon.

For example, a 2003 announcement from Lepanto about the retirement of its president listed a "Lyndon Bradish" as vice president.

According to the grapevine, the first name discrepancy has surfaced within the Lepanto and Manila Mining boardrooms since Manila Mining is now negotiating with a listed Canadian mining venture, East Asia Minerals, for the development of the Manila Mining claims.

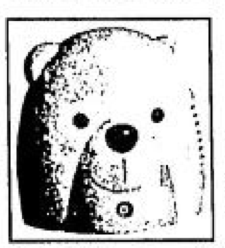
The Canadian prospecting company lists a "Lyndon Bradish" as president and CEO, the same Bradish that now sits, and is negotiating with, as president of Manila Mining. To prevent any conflict-of-situation scandal, Bradish told the Manila Mining and Lepanto boards that he has removed himself from the negotiating committees of both companies.

Money-go-round

- THE MISCHIEVOUS travel committee of

COCKTALES/ B5

CHILDREN'S NEBULIZER



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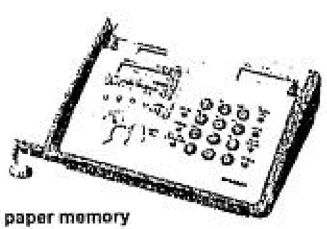

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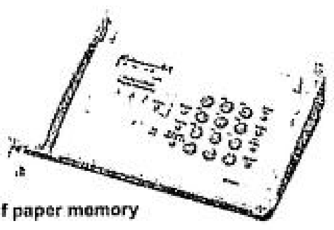

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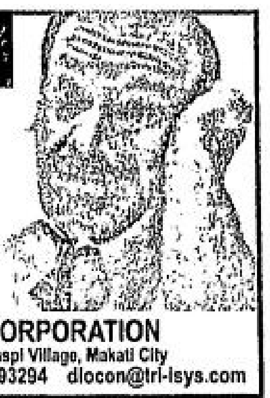

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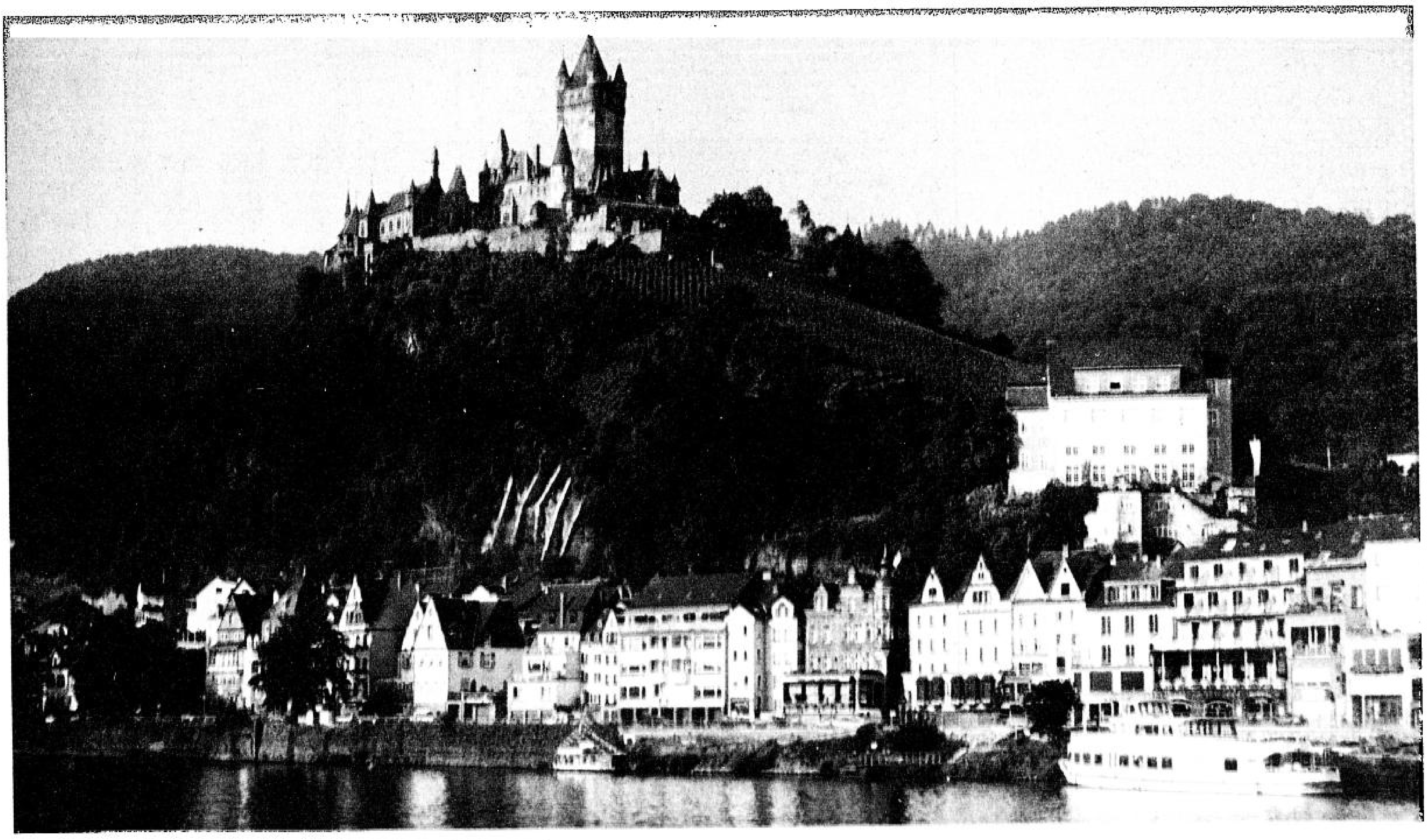

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METRO MANILA
Nov. 26 (Friday) - 9 am to 5 pm
Nov. 26 (Saturday) - 9 am to 12 nn
U-BIX Head Office, 1344 Angono St.
Makati City *(Beside Makati City Hall)*
Tel. Nos. 897-6819 / 899-6439
Email: hrd@ubix.com.ph

DAVAO
Nov. 28 (Monday) - 8 am to 5 pm
The Apo View Hotel (Vanda Room)
For inquiries, call (082) 225-1351 / 52
Email: ubxdvo@mozcom.com

CEBU
Nov. 30 (Wednesday) - 8 am to 5 pm
U-BIX Building, Mactan Business Center
Airport Road, Pusok, Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 340-2319 / 21 / 22
Email: ubxcbmbc@mozcom.com

** Please come in business attire. Applications will be screened and processed within the day. Bring your resume, 2x2 picture and transcript of records.*

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PRISM PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Personnel Manager

Background:
The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers.

The Personnel Manager will be responsible for the human resources services to include recruitment and hiring, training and staff development, policy manual updates and enforcement, employee performance evaluation, salaries and benefits administration, and maintenance of personnel files.

Specific Tasks
The Personnel Manager will be responsible for undertaking the following tasks and responsibilities in a professional manner:

1. Prepare job announcements for vacant posts, and advertise them in major local dailies.
2. Handle recruitment process of personnel for project requirements.
3. Handle salary offer and negotiation of qualified applicants based on competitive recruitment process.
4. Prepare technical concurrence memo for long-term professional technical staff and assure submission to PRISM's Cognizant Technical Officer prior to the employment of the latter.
5. Conduct and identify training needs of employees, prepares training plan and implement training programs.
6. Facilitate job analysis, job evaluation, job design, salary and wage administration.
7. Manage benchmarking or market sensing on competitors in terms of competitiveness of salary and benefits package, and new trends in enhancing compensation program.
8. Perform manpower review to ensure organizational health areas relating to personnel/ overhead cost, work and work relations.
9. Administer employee's benefits such as health insurance/maintenance coverage, life insurance and ensure that employee questions/problems are addressed in a satisfactory manner.
10. Initiate the conduct of employee annual performance evaluation.
11. Monitor and enforce employee's compliance to company policies and procedures.
12. Prepare modification memoranda to reflect revisions on the policy manual.
13. Maintain and updates personnel files.
14. Provide career guidance counseling to employees for possible movements within the company.
15. Prepare regular report on recruitment, turnover, promotion, transfer, demotion, termination of project employees.
16. The Personnel Manager will undertake other duties assigned by the Senior Finance and Administration Manager or designee or independently which are consistent with their qualifications, the Scope of Work and the general requirements of PRISM.

Reporting:
The Personnel Manager will report directly to Senior Finance and Administration Manager who will be responsible for monitoring personnel manager's overall performance.

Qualifications:
- With at least 10 years in human resources management and development experience
- Preferably with post graduate degree in management or other related fields
- Hard-working, objective, and goal oriented
- Strong interpersonal skills (e.g., tact, diplomacy and patience)
- Familiarity with Philippine labor laws
- Excellent written and verbal communications
- Proficient in Word, Excel, Powerpoint

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at **jobs@prism.org.ph** on or before **2nd of December 2005.**

NFA implements buying strategies

IN ADDITION TO THE higher support price for palay and the timely release of procurement funds to the regions, the National Food Authority is implementing buying strategies signalling its readiness to serve the farmers in marketing for their produce during the main crop Additional buying stations have been set up in areas not normally reached by private grain traders. Moreover, farmers and farmers organization are encouraged to set up collecting stations for easy collection of their palay harvest by the NFA's roving procurement teams. NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the agency is intensifying palay buying activities especially for the main harvest from October until the early part of January to push the ex-farm price higher than the NFA support price. He has also instructed the agency's field officials to undertake procurement operations through the NFA's 530 buying stations strategically located nationwide and to explain to farmers the NFA's procurement procedure. For more information regarding the agency's procurement operations, the public may send their inquiries, complaints via the Text NFA program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of the following positions: 1) a. Three (3) General Clerks, Two (2) Data Encoders and One (1) Stenographer b. Three (3) Currency Verifiers 2) Three (3) Plant Workers 3) Seventeen (17) Skilled Workers
Approved Budget for the Contract	1) a. P680,000.00 or P10,000.00/month/personnel b. P175,500.00 or P9,750.00/month/personnel 2) P291,667.00 or 9,722.22/month/personnel 3) P2,296,434.12 or 11,257.03/month/personnel
Contract Duration	Per BSP Terms of Reference

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	18 November to 15 December 2005 up to 2 PM only
2. Pre-bid Conference	16 December 2005, 2:00 PM
3. Opening of Bids	28 December 2005, 10:00 AM
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)
6. Notice of Award	A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.05% of the ABC for each item to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–November 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY

A Century of bringing the Filipinos closer together through better transportation and Communications

IN RE: PETITION FOR AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL FUEL SURCHARGE ON INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TICKETS

CAB Case No. EP-27589

EMIRATES,
Petitioner.
x---x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of RA776, as amended, Notice is hereby given that **EMIRATES** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a petition for approval of authority to impose additional fuel surcharge of USD10.00 on international passenger tickets from **USD40.00** to **USD50.00** per sector. The above-entitled case is scheduled for hearing on **December 7, 2005 at 3:30 PM** at the CAB Conference Room, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned, wherein the applicant shall present relevant evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once, two (2) weeks before the scheduled hearing in a newspaper of general circulation.

Let a copy of the petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

15 November 2005
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **FREDERICK G. VILLARIN**
Hearing Officer

ATTY. RONALD A. LEDESMA
Counsel for Emirates
Puno and Puno
12th Floor, East Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Atty. Roberto C.O. Lim
Counsel for PAL
9/F, PAL Center, Legaspi St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Atty. Sarah R. Creencia-Crespillo
Counsel- Cebu Pacific
Airline Operations Center
Domestic Airport, Pasay City

Atty. Jonathan Andrew Lim
Legal Department
Air Philippines Corporation
APC Gate I, Andrews Avenue, Pasay City

(PDI--Nov. 23, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SSS Ee's Rice Grant for the 1st Quarter CY2006

Brief description of the Project

- Degree of Milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
- Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
- Grade Specifications : Headrice – 90% to 95% (minimum)
  Broken – 10% to 5% (maximum)
- Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
- Labeling : With front & back markings
- Quantity : 7,560 sacks

1. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*, through the Operating Expense-Rice Grant intends to apply the sum of P10,206,000.00 (P1,350.00/sack) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,560 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the first quarter of Year 2006. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,560 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice. Supply and door-to-door delivery of the GOODS is required within thirty (30) calendar days after contract signing/ receipt of purchase order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8 AM TO 5 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00. The method of payment will be on a cash basis/manager's check payable to SSS to be paid at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg. Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *December 02, 2005 at 3:30p.m.*, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on *December 09, 2005 not later than 2:00p.m.*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in a form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *December 09, 2005 at 2:00p.m.*, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given.
9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI--Nov. 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
MUNICIPALITY OF MANUKAN
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Municipal Hall, Manukan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE MANUKAN PUBLIC MARKET, MANUKAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

The Municipality of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte has approved the Proposed Construction of Manukan Public Market in the amount of P25M, thru planning, design and construction scheme located at Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte. All interested proponents with the following qualifications are invited to prequalify and submit proposals for the planning, design and construction of the said project.

1. PCAB/IAC CATEGORY Medium for Buildings and industrial plants
2. Must be capable of undertaking the planning, design and construction of Public Market
3. With existing Business Permit within Zamboanga del Norte

The Schedule of BAC activities is as follows

BAC Activities	Deadline
1. Letter of Intent	December 13, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Form	December 13, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	December 13, 2005 (5:00 PM)
4. Issuance of TOR/BID Documents	December 15, 2005
5. Pre-Bid Conference	December 23, 2005 (3:00 PM)
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	January 2, 2006 (10:00 AM)

All interested proponents are hereby advised to submit Letter of Intent upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Cashier of Municipality of Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte to obtain Eligibility Forms.

The BAC will issue Terms of Reference or bidding documents only to Bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of P7,500.00 to the Cashier of Municipality of Manukan ZN.

Letter of intent shall be addressed to the Chairman, Office of the BAC, Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte.

The Manukan LGU reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any informality or defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous and acceptable design to the Manukan LGU.

(Sgd.) **ROSARIO E. REDERA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 23 & 28, 2005)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID # 2005-19

The **PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION Bids & Awards Committee (PITC-BAC)** invites duly licensed SEC registered security agencies who can meet the following minimum requirements for eligibility and to bid for PITC's security services :

- In the Security agency business for at least five (5) years and still in operation
- Have existing branches/offices nationwide specifically in Pangasinan & Cebu
- With Stockholders' Equity of at least **P2 Million** as of December 31, 2004
- Must have valid License to Operate (LTO) issued by the Philippine National Police
- Must have valid Certificate of Membership with the Philippine Association of Detectives and Protection Agency Operators, Inc. (PADPAO)

Bid documents will be available for issuance during office hours starting November 25, 2005 until December 14, 2005, weekdays only, from the BAC Secretariat c/o Mrs. Helen R. Muncal at the 4th Floor of the NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St. Salcedo Village, Makati City after payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

The particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract are stated in the bid documents and shall be governed by the provisions of **R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations .**

PITC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, waive any defects or informalities therein and/or accept the offer/s most advantageous and beneficial to the government. Further, the PITC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the prospective bidders for any expenses incurred in the processing of their eligibility to bid and/or in the preparation of the bid.

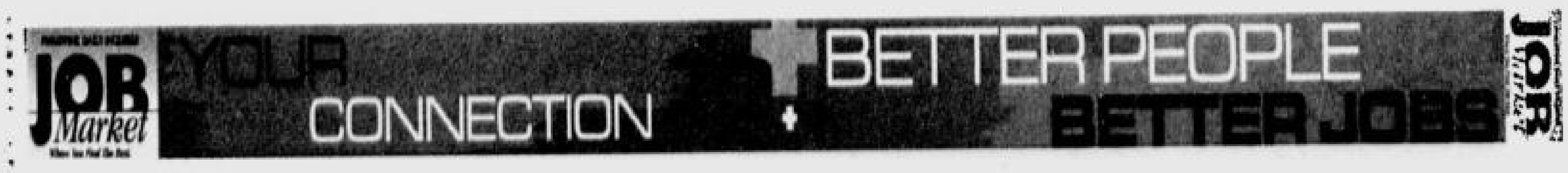
(SGD.) MARLENE R. LOPEZ
Chair, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 23 & 29, 2005)

Academy of Dentistry International's 3RD quarter meeting

THE ACADEMY OF DENTISTRY International Philippine Section will hold its Regular Quarterly meeting and Pre-Christmas Fellowship and Get-Together on November 23 at the Executive Lounge of United Laboratories, Inc. on United St., Mandaluyong City.

According to Dr. Antonio Baldemor, ADI President and Dean Eliza G. Puzon, Secretary, the affair which will start at 5:30 PM, will feature Fr. Agerico M. Orbos, SVD, as guest of honor and speaker, awarding of distinction from the ADI head office to Dr. Sofronio P. San Juan, the announcement of the criteria for the Recognition Awards to outstanding ADI members (all-expense paid trip to Disneyland Hongkong).



Cojuangco company to invest P30B in 3G network

By Clarissa S. Batino

AZ COMMUNICATIONS NETwork Inc., a joint venture between a group associated with Antonio Cojuangco and foreign supplier Lucent Technologies, will invest close to P30 billion to provide third-generation or 3G mobile services nationwide within five years.

In its application before the National Telecommunications Commission, the telco said it would spend P6 billion for capital investments in the first year, P11 billion and P8 billion on the second and third years and a billion pesos more on the fourth and fifth years.

The NTC is scheduled to award five 3G frequencies to carriers deemed qualified and capable of operating and financing the roll-out of the next generation of cellular phone services.

The 3G network allows wireless subscribers to make full-motion, real-time video calls and download content faster and potentially at less cost.

The telco said in its filing with the NTC that it was bullish on the prospects of 3G in the country despite the reluctance of some major players to quickly adopt the new technology.

AZ Communications projects that on the first year alone, it would book P1.6 billion in revenue, which would jump to P9.9 billion on the second year.

By the third year, the telco linked to the former owner of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said it would post P22.9 billion in revenues, then up 37 percent to P31.5 billion on the fourth year and P34.7 billion on the fifth year.

The company said it planned to serve at least 200,000 subscribers by the end of its first year of commercial operations and then hit 2 million by the end of the fifth year.

Aside from AZ Communications, other small players that have filed applications for 3G licenses were Multi-Media Telephony Inc. linked to Enrique Razon, Connectivity Unlimited Resources Inc. controlled by Roberto Ongpin, Next Mobile Inc. of Mel Velarde and Pacific Wireless Inc.

Major carriers such as Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom Inc., Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc. and Bayan Telecommunications Inc. told the NTC that they were also interested in 3G.

AZ Communications, which has a franchise to operate radio telephony, used to belong to Adelaida Zaragosa, whom, according to sources, had sold her stake to Cojuangco.

It has a paid-up capital of P125.2 million with deposits for future subscriptions amounting to P189 million.

The telco told the NTC it had partnered with American provider Lucent Technologies, which would provide technical and financial assistance to the company.

COJUANGCO

DBP raising $300M for Naia 3 buyout

From page B1

next year.

Official sources said the Miaa was looking at a shorter loan maturity because the government did not intend to hold on to the terminal for long.

As the plan was to privatize the airport at the soonest time possible, the sources said the government would prefer a loan maturity of less than 10 years.

While DBP was willing to lend up to $400 million, government sources added that $300 million would be enough to meet Miaa's requirements for the controversial terminal.

In any case, the sources said the government would thresh out all problems and clean up Naia 3's finances to make it more attractive to new investors.

The government expropriated the facility last December but has been unable to operate it because of a number of lawsuits, including the arbitration case filed before the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes by Piatco's German-based partner, Fraport, which demanded the reimbursement of its $425-million investment in Naia 3.

However, Fraport later agreed to sell its 61-percent stake in Piatco for $200 million to a consortium headed by Chinese-Filipino businessman Emilio Yap, the owner of the Manila Hotel.

The long-drawn controversy took on another twist when Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., the original proponent of the Naia 3 project before it was awarded to Piatco, revived its interest in the terminal project. AEDC has asked the high court to order the government to award to it the contract to operate the mothballed facility.

Citing the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, AEDC said it was automatically entitled to the award of the Naia 3 project as a matter of "clear statutory right."

Established in 1993, AEDC was originally composed of taipans John Gokongwei, Andrew Gotianun, Henry Sy Sr., George Ty, Alfonso Yuchengco and Lucio Tan.

Cocktales

From page B3

the recently concluded Advertising Congress in Cebu put as seatmates feuding David Guerrero and his recently retired chair Susan Dimacali on a Manila-bound plane on Sunday.

- THE CONTINUED stay of retired Justice Jose Vitug as independent director of the Philippine Stock Exchange is now being questioned with his recent appointment as general counsel of the listed Manila Electric Co.

Heard through the grapevine

CONTAINER terminal tycoon Enrique Razon Jr. claims PLDT and Marcos-era trade secretary Roberto Ongpin are both erroneously linking him to a new 3G telephone venture.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Shares rise . . .

From page B1

dex gain since Friday.

The country's largest mall operator, SM Prime, was the most actively traded stock, up 3.5 percent at P8.90, on expectations it will gain from increased consumer spending in the fourth quarter during the Christmas holidays.

Other favored stocks were Ayala Corp., up 1.4 percent at P352.50, and Globe Telecom, higher by 4.1 percent at P770. *AP*

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ON-SITE AUCTION
TRUCK ENGINES, SPARE PARTS & SCRAP METALS
SITE ADDRESS : 2875 IBA, MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 28 - 29, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2005 (WED), 10:30AM
(36) ISUZU ENGINES, (21) FUSO ENGINES, (9) NISSAN ENGINES, (9) HINO ENGINES, VARIOUS (ISUZU, FUSO, CANTER) CABIN, TRUCK PARTS, (18) ENGINE BLOCK, ENGINE CUT CHASSIS, (163) TRANSMISSION VARIOUS MODELS, (105) DIFFERENTIAL CARRIER, (211) FAN BLADE METAL & PLASTIC, (31) INJECTION PUMPS, (19) FLY WHEEL (ASSORTED), (23) HYDROVAC FUSO FIGHTER, (17) I-BEAM (ASSORTED), (165) PROPELLER, (69) INJECTOR (ASSORTED), (130) PROPELLER PLATE, (54) STEERING PUMP, (26) WATER PUMP, (24) FLY WHEEL HOUSING, (41) PULLEY, OIL PUMP, PRESSURE PLATE, (88) SLACK ADJUSTER, (5) SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY, (47) AIR CLEANER, (40) AIR COMPRESSOR, (25) ALTERNATOR, CLUTCH BOOSTER, (31) CYLINDER HEAD, (746) LEAF SPRING, (30) ALUMINUM INTAKE, AND SCRAP METALS.
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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the hereunder contracts:

General Title : Road Improvement Projects (Asphalting), Phase 3
Scope : Items of work include, but not limited to, asphalting, line ditching, cross drainage & slope protection
Particulars :

Package	ABC (PhP)	Duration (c.d.)	PCAB Category ARCC-based	Location	Plans and Bid Documents (PhP)
1	36,767,138 77	90	Medium A	1st district, Mainland Cebu	10,000 00
2	82,397,560 91	150	Medium B	2nd district, Mainland Cebu	20,000 00
3	38,108,846 92	100	Medium A	3rd district, Mainland Cebu	10,000 00
4	47,498,095 96	110	Medium A	4th district, Mainland Cebu	10,000 00
5	32,027,096 73	90	Medium A	5th district, Mainland Cebu	10,000 00
6	28,126,845 76	90	Medium A	4th district, Bantayan Island	10,000 00
7	35,074,414 96	100	Medium A	5th district, Camotes Island	10,000 00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the ABC per package, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening and in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Submission of Eligibility Documents/Statements and Screening, Bid and Performance Securities, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract, shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) Including Application for Eligibility	Nov. 17-23, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Nov. 17-23, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 23, 2005
4. Notice of Eligibility Check Results	Nov. 25, 2005
5. Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents	Nov. 25, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 28, 2005
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Dec. 9, 2005

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative and Engineering Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent stating and specifying therein which Package/s they intend to undertake and payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50 00) for each Package to the Cash Division. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 416-5400 local 110.

The Secretariat will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA who are found to be eligible to bid, upon payment to the Cash Division a non-refundable amount as above-stated.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman, BAC-INFRA

(PDI–Nov 17 & 23, 2005)

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Farmers seen to benefit from board changes

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government (PCGG) yesterday said that its recent move to change some of the directors in coconut-levy funded companies United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) and the Coconut Industry Investment Fund Group (CIIF) will allow coconut farmers to be fully represented in the firms.

A ranking PCGG official said that new board members would replace some of the board directors who are leaders of civic groups—not "real" coconut farmers.

The PCGG official is referring to Jose Ma. Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc., Romeo Royondonan, Philippine Peasant Institute executive director, who are members of the UCPB board.

The ranking PCGG official who refused to be named said that they are working on behalf of coconut farmers.

"We want (the farmers) to have a say on policies and programs that would be drafted by these companies for them," the official said.

But another UCPB director, Vic Fabe, who is said to be on the list of those to be replaced, is a legitimate coconut farmer.

Fabe is the chair of the Pambansang Kilusan ng Mga Magsasaka.

Faustino, Fabe and Royondonan were nominees of the late PCGG chair Haydee Yorac.

They have been fighting for the return of the the coco levy-funded assets—now estimated at P154 billion—to its rightful owners, the small coconut farmers.

According to industry sources, the move of the PCGG will favor the interests of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

There are criminal cases ranged against Cojuangco, arising from his use of the coco levy fund in acquiring stakes in different companies, particularly in San Miguel Corp.

Also, the Sandiganbayan has yet to decide on a number of civil cases involving the reported 72-percent stake of Cojuangco in the United Coconut Planters Bank.

One industry source said that the Arroyo administration "must hold its ground regarding the issue of the levies."

"Every time the SC is about to come out with a decision in favor of the farmers, the opposition would always push for an out-of-court settlement," the source added. *Christine A. Gaylican*

Chinese oil firm to invest in Mala

CNOOC joins foreign firms interested in crude oil reserves

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A CHINESE STATE-RUN FIRM HAS JOINED A number of companies that have expressed interest in developing the Malampaya oil reserves despite the big investment needed to recover 27 million barrels of crude oil.

"There is big money involved, but we think (investing in the oil) has benefits," said Zhu Weilin, China National Offshore Oil Corp. vice president.

The CNOOC official said in an interview that the company was looking at other possible projects in the Philippines following its taking part in the joint survey with PNOC Exploration Corp. and Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. of an area in the Spratly Islands.

He explained that CNOOC was open to investing in more projects in the Philippines.

CNOOC joins a growing list of petroleum firms that want to take a crack at the Malampaya oil after the consortium led by Shell Philippines Exploration BV announced it was relinquishing its right over the reserve.

Spex had described the oil rim as "sub-commercial" considering some $400 million would be required to retrieve between 25-35 million barrels of crude oil.

Spex is the project operator of the area covered under Service Contract No. 38, known for the Malampaya natural gas production field that feeds three power plants with a total of 2,700 megawatts of installed capacity.

The SC 38 group includes Chevron Texaco, which has a 45-percent stake like Spex, and PNOC-EC with 10 percent.

According to government data, the Malampaya oil rim is a 56-meter thick oil zone found below the 600-meter thick gas zone covered by SC 38.

First discovered when the first gas well was being drilled in 1991, extraction of the oil rim was treated as a separate undertaking.

PNOC-EC president Eduardo Mañalac had said major petroleum firms would consider the volume of the Malampaya oil rim too small to spend resources on.

The state-run firm, on the other hand, is taking steps to spearhead the development of the oil rim, possibly with partners, and is awaiting an executive order from Malacañang that will give PNOC-EC the right to exploit the reserve.

PNOC-EC chief operating officer Rafael del Pilar said last week "there are groups such as banks and fund managers who are willing to become partners and financiers."

The Department of Energy projects that the Malampaya oil could generate proceeds of up to $2 billion if extracted.

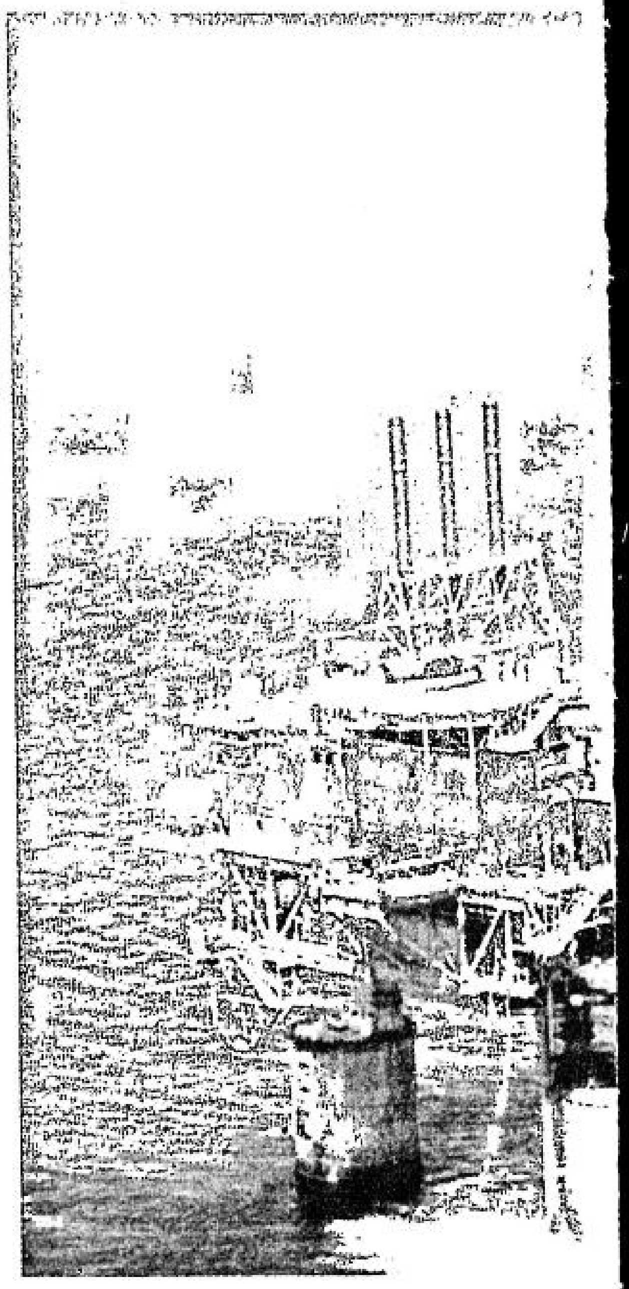
DOE officials identified other firms interested in the oil as United States-based Argo Group, Norway's Norsk Hydro and Petroleum Geoservices Inc. as well as AustralAsian Energy Ltd. of Azerbaijan.

Trade Undersecretary Guillermo R. Balce said that the oil from rim could start flowing again as early as mid-2006.

In 2002, the SC 38 consortium ran a well test that yielded at least 600,000 barrels from the oil rim, which was sold to a ChevronTexaco refinery in South Korea.

Oil flow was recorded at 23,000 barrels a day, which allowed the group to appraise whether the reserve was of commercial quantity.

The well test was done at about 820 meters below sea level and was believed to be the deepest subsea well test undertaken in the world.



AN OIL RIG sits on a field of oil worth up to $2 billion.

Breakthroughs in research expected to head off worldwide ri

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH Institute (IRRI) has presented new biotechnological breakthroughs in rice research that may help answer growing global demand for the commodity.

New rice varieties that can withstand droughts and soils with high salinity—producing even higher yields due to its disease- and pest-resistant genes—may ease the effects of a worldwide rice shortfall expected in 2010.

"These are some of the new breakthroughs, especially the completion of the rice genome, that spell the solution to fragile economies that have rice as their major staple," said IRRI information officer Duncan Macintosh, at the sidelines of a gathering of rice genetic engineers and scientists from more than 20 countries in Manila.

Based on the study of IRRI Dr. Mahabub Hossain, the area cultivated with rice all over the world barely expanded in the last 33 years to 149 million hectares. Thus, world rice production only grew by 13 percent to 589 million metric tons over the last 13 years.

"The decline in global rice stocks has reached alarming levels," Dr. Hossain said in his study. "Water is getting scarce and land has been diverted to alternative uses, narrowing down chances of increasing rice production. The adoption of new plant type and hybrid rice for the tropics is crucial."

The five-day rice genetics conference seeks to find a solution to the tightening world rice production supply as large economies like China have become net rice importers themselves, thus, affecting the international price of the commodity in the last five years.

"Rice importing countries like the Philippines and Indonesia strongly felt China's presence in the world market this year because rice prices suddenly shot up by 40 percent to as much as $320 per metric ton," Macintosh said.

China's progress is coupled with the increase of its rice imports. The growing demand in China has put additional pressure on the Philippines and other countries to acquire self-sufficiency in rice production," Macintosh said.

He said the small countries could no longer rely on international rice trade to stabilize their supplies, he added.

At present, the Philippines is now racing against China in coming up with commercially viable, genetically modified rice seeds over the next five years, said Philippine Rice Research Institute director Leocadio Sebastian.

According to a report, China is applying the brakes to its plan to produce the world's first genetically modified rice for human consumption as concerns mount over safety, especially with reports that illegal transgenic rice is already being sold in some provinces.

Scientists and activists say that China's biosafety committee is unlikely to reach a consensus this week.

The government has added more food and environment safety experts to the committee, which would examine and make recommendation to Beijing on four varieties of insect or disease resistant GMO rice varieties.

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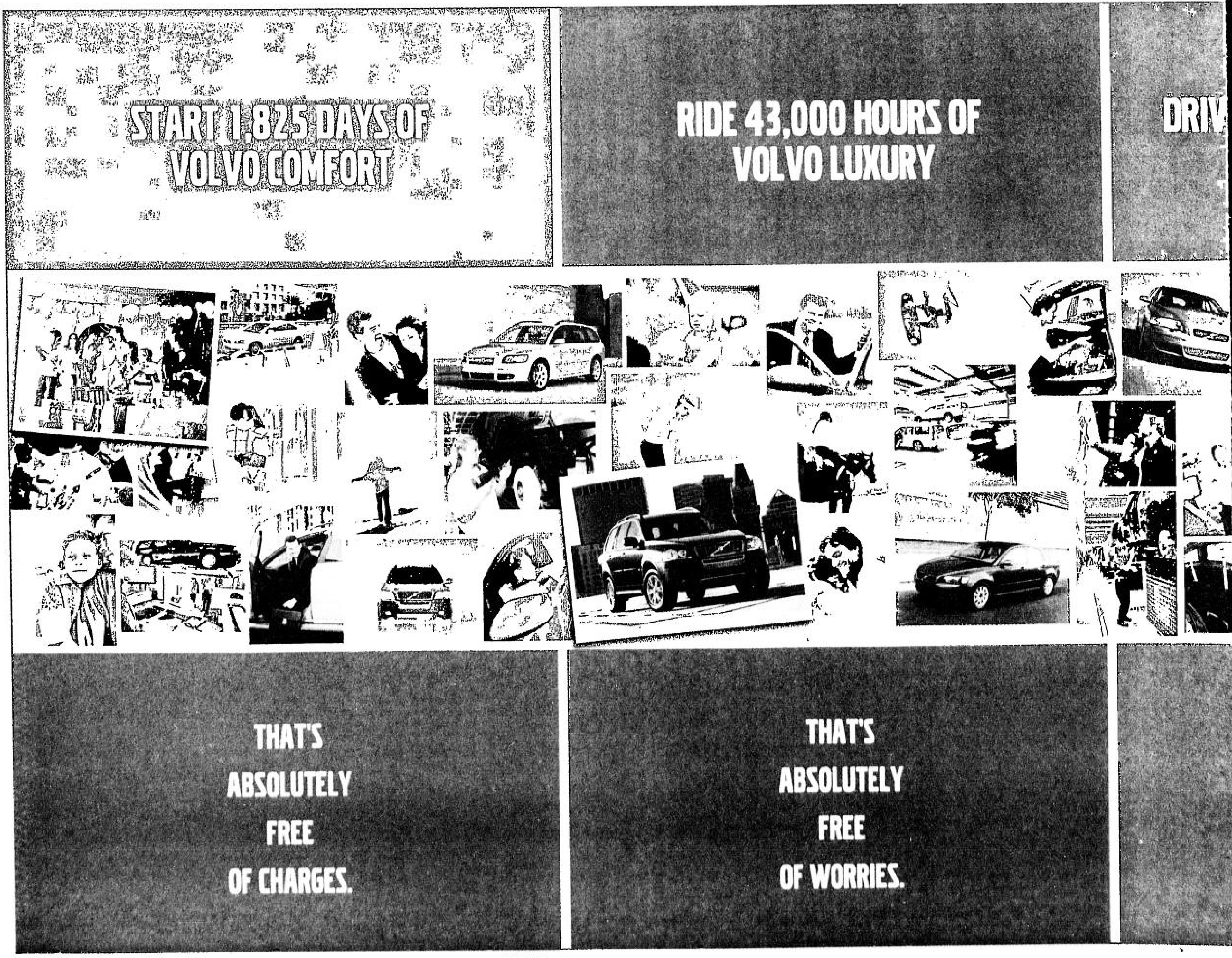
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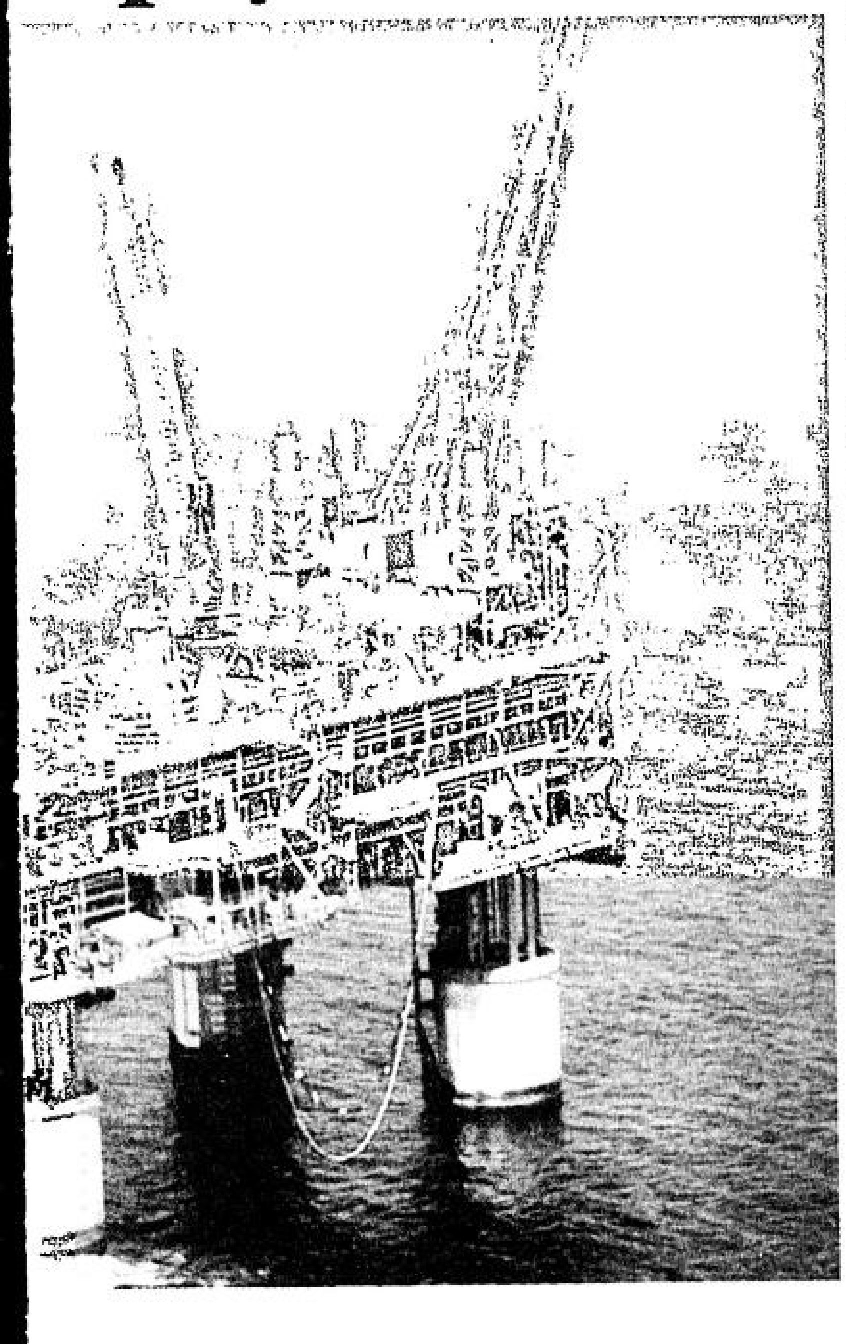

ce shortage in 2010

t think they'll come to a consen- d Angus Lam, a campaigner enpeace in China. "There will ent opinions. There has been ack for GMO rice. It's not mov- t as we expected."

nis year China, already the lead- icer of GMO cotton, looked set e commercialization of a GMO h would lead to the release of 's first major transgenic crop for nan consumption.

far, Beijing has not given the ht to the disease resistant Xa21 ommended by the committee mber.

Scientists and activists said Beijing was caught off guard in April when Greenpeace announced that the unapproved GMO rice was on sale in the markets in the central province of Hubei, one of China's major rice producers.

Greenpeace also found illegal sale of the rice in the southern province of Guangdong in June, which it said showed the transgenic rice was spreading across China and could enter markets overseas.

Some of China's top trading partners, including the European Union, Japan and South Korea, expressed concern about the reports and they asked Beijing for clarification. *With a report from Reuters*

Purefoods net earnings surge 833%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL PUREFOODS CO. INC., A UNIT of Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage company, turned in strong third quarter results amid intense competition and a generally weak economic environment.

From July to September, San Miguel Purefoods reported its net earnings surged 833 percent to P95.97 million between July and September from P10.28 million in the same quarter last year.

In the nine-month period, net income rose to P281.3 million from P259.3 million in the same period last year. Net sales grew to P36.5 billion from last year's P31.73 billion.

Almost all businesses managed to register double-digit year-on-year revenue growth through sustained marketing and selling activities, new product introductions and improved distribution network.

Remarkable improvements in operating performance, particularly in the poultry and flour businesses, resulted in 15 percent growth in income from operations during the nine months compared to the figures in 2004.

Cost of sales increased 14 percent, along with the growth in volume and with the continued rise in the cost of some major raw materials.

Interest expense grew 20 percent from P334.3 million to P401.3 million, mainly due to higher level of borrowings for working capital and capital expenditure requirements of the company's subsidiaries, Magnolia Inc. and The Purefoods-Hormel Company Inc.

San Miguel's poultry business, remained to be the biggest contributor to the company's revenue, posting an 8 percent and 11 percent increase in volume and revenue, respectively.

SMFI's Flour Business sustained its profitable performance despite a relatively flat volume growth versus last year.

Despite weak consumer spending and robust competition among the market players, the Processed Meats Business registered double-digit volume and revenue growth of 16 percent and 19 percent respectively, at the end of the third quarter.

Year-to-date operating profit, however, was 19 percent below last year's level due to sharp increases in both local and imported raw materials prices and higher fixed costs.

Magnolia's year-to-date revenue grew 19 percent on account of improved prices and contribution of new products such as milk and ice cream.

However, squeezed margins of all product categories brought about by increases in costs of imported raw materials adversely affected the business.

Liberty seeking new capital, posts ₱232M in losses

By Clarissa S. Batino

LIBERTY TELECOMS HOLDINGS INC. would be forced to lay off some of its people should it fail to secure new capital, according to its disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The moribund telecom company controlled by the family of Raymond Moreno registered a net loss of P231.86 million in the first nine months of the year, 15.6 percent lower than its P274.62-million loss recorded in the same period last year.

In the third quarter, its net loss was at P54.38 million versus P87.25 million in the same period in 2004.

Liberty Telecoms and its subsidiaries had asked the court in August to place it under rehabilitation and to allow suspension of debt payments.

The company is restructuring roughly P1.3 billion in loans.

"Should the company fail to achieve the objective of securing investment at the beginning of the fourth quarter, the management has no other option but to permanently retrench temporarily laid-off personnel last January 2005," Liberty said in its disclosure.

The company shut down its telecommunications operations in April.

Moreno had said the company continued to look for new investors that could put in fresh equity to help the company recover from the exit of a major foreign investor in 2000.

The listed company is primarily engaged in voice and data services, although it has a broadcast unit called Liberty Broadcasting Network Inc.

The lack of funds had stalled the company's expansion plans and eventually forced it to suspend operations.

Moreno, the company's chair and president, said the company was severely affected by the withdrawal of its major foreign partner, Deutsche Telekom, five years ago as part of the German firm's strategy to get out of Asia.

Among the options that the ailing telecom company had been pursuing were "the sourcing of investments, restructuring of existing loans, the filing of a petition for rehabilitation and a petition for the suspension of debt payments."

Moreno earlier said Liberty Telecoms was talking with three possible partners that could either put in new money or guarantee new borrowing for the company.

First Pacific to work on delisting Del Monte upon acquisition

SINGAPORE-LISTED DEL MONTE PACIFIC Ltd. may revert back to a private firm once Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. succeeds in acquiring more than 50 percent of the pineapple products distributor.

First Pacific Brands Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of First Pacific Co., also notified the Singapore Stock Exchange that it hopes to complete its takeover of Del Monte by Dec. 14.

First Pacific has set a special general meeting on Dec. 9 to enable its shareholders to decide whether they want to acquire 40 percent of Del Monte, held by the Cirio Group, an Italian food firm.

First Pacific also said that if it succeeds in acquiring more than 50 percent of Del Monte, the existing employment rights, including pension rights of Del Monte employees, will be safeguarded. It also said that it intends to work on delisting Del Monte from the Singapore exchange as soon as it closes the acquisition deal.

First Pacific needs roughly $420 million to take full control of Del Monte Pacific, according to a source in the company.

The source added that First Pacific has enough cash to fund its proposed acquisition of Del Monte and can easily secure loans to further back-up the deal.

This means First Pacific has the financial muscle to buy 40 percent of Del Monte from Italy's largest canned food company, Cirio Finanziaria S.p.A. for $164 million, and pay for the 22-percent stake held by the Lorenzo family through Macondray & Co. Inc., and the rest of the public shares through a mandatory tender offer.

First Pacific earlier said it has signed an agreement with Del Monte shareholder Cirio and Del Monte Holdings Ltd. for the combined 40-percent block in Del Monte Pacific.

The Cirio Del Monte Group is presently under "Extraordinary Administration," similar to Chapter 11 under the United States' Bankruptcy Code.

Cirio's stake has been up for sale since 2003, luring the likes of taipan Lucio Tan and San Miguel Corp. in acquiring it.

Should First Pacific succeed in buying Cirio's stake, which will be known by Jan. 15, it will be required to conduct a conditional cash offer in Singapore to buy out other shareholders of Del Monte Pacific. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

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A TRENDSETTER in terms of passenger-car safety innovation, the 2006 S-Class is truly a class of its own.

Mercedes-Benz S-Class now available in RP

By Charles E. Buban

A NEW SEDAN WITH A V6 engine joins the roster of Mercedes-Benz's largest cars for 2006 and it's now available in the Philippines, according to CATS Motors, the country's official distributor of this P8.8-million ultra-luxury car.

The newcomer, the S-350, is powered by a 3.7-liter, 245-horsepower engine and mated to a 7G-Tronic seven-speed automatic gearbox.

Although its buyers will not be generally looking for its zero to 100 kph acceleration (since comfort and refinement is the order of the day here), this particular S-Class trim will break the mark in 7.6 seconds.

Replacing the old S-320, this "entry-level" trim completes the 2006 S-Class lineup that includes the S-430, S-500, S-600 and two more powerful and sportier AMG trims—S-55 and S-65.

Only the more powerful S-500—running on a 5-liter, V8 engine and on a seven-speed automatic gearbox—will be available here, albeit at a hefty P10.8-million price tag.

Flagship sedan

"We are proud to have finally brought it here. The S-Class is regarded as Mercedes-Benz's flagship sedan and is certainly a winner when it comes to curbside prestige. It's the ultimate reward for a lifestyle shaped by mobility, individuality, success and sophistication," said Felix Ang, president of Cats Motors (www.mercedes-benz.com.ph.) during the car's launch early this month at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

Indeed, people have always sought this particular Mercedes-Benz model for its effortless and luxurious ride quality, outstanding safety features and pioneering technology.

While having the usual array of airbags and safety-belt pretensions, the latest S-Class is equipped with what Mercedes-Benz engineers call the Pre-Safe, a groundbreaking system that uses high-tech sensors linked to the traction control system in order to anticipate an accident.

"In a split second it can adjust the seats, tighten the safety belts and close the windows to ensure minimum injury," explained Ang.

The system uses two complementary radar frequencies to detect vehicles up ahead, warn of a likely impact and prime the braking system for faster response when the driver brakes the car. In addition, the front seatbelts are tightened during the valuable time just before a possible impact, and seats move to positions that provide better protection.

Impressive safety features

Said Ang: "Of course, the Pre-Safe joins a list of already impressive standard safety, luxury and convenience features including an Airmatic air suspension with adaptive damping system and all-round self-leveling suspension (for an extremely comfortable ride), Cockpit Management and Navigation Display (Comand) with integral radio, 8-inch color display that plays DVD and MP3 (the car's control center).

CATS Motors still offers other optional packages to make your S-Class really spectacular (look-wise and its featured gadgets), including a more dramatic leather and wood combination, night view assist (helps you see more at night), Bi-xenon headlamps with Active Light System, cornering and dynamic headlamp range and Parktronic system (beeps and flashes lights to inform the driver how close the vehicle is to an obstacle when parking).

"Indeed, with its overall packaging, quality and interior ambiance as well as styling, the 2006 S-class is truly back to what it does best: comprehensively move the goalposts forward for all cars in terms of luxury and technology," Ang concludes.

Love in a time of crisis

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE PAST FEW YEARS MUST FEEL surreal for many Filipinos, especially when dealing with concerns that are economic in nature. When can anyone remember the last time gasoline was not such a concern for most Filipinos, regardless of their personal financial capacity. One needs only to look at the secondhand prices of the once popular, oversized American SUVs. Even those who were able to cough up the premium retail prices for such vehicles, did not seem able to withstand the rising pressure from the price of fuel.

Fuel efficiency of an automobile has never seen such attention as a marketable "performance" trait. Consumption figures are now ostensibly more important for the motoring masses than horsepower or torque. Strange how far the products in the Philippine automotive market have changed, and yet the outlook for the future is less familiar still.

Ruling the roost

Cars that were thought to be undesirable because of their small engines and tiny physique now rule the roost. Why is the Honda Jazz so popular now, when Toyota sold a very similar product, the Echo, in the late '90s? At least we can say that the Filipino motorist is learning to appreciate these fun and frugal superminis.

I regret to inform the public that a further step toward smaller cars will still have to be taken. We are realistically looking at cars that are three fourths the size of a Jazz or Vios and are powered by engine displacements usually associated with motorcycles; 660cc and 800cc, cylinder units are the future of purely gasoline-fed power plants.

Is this the foreshadowing of the internal combustion engine's end? Possibly so, but if and only if, we do not take the electric hybrid systems into consideration. By combining a petroleum burning unit with a electric motor, a system of charging and batteries the size of a go-kart, much more thrifty consumption can be had.

Hybrid systems

Two of the leading gasoline electric hybrid systems can be found in the stables of Honda and Toyota, both of which are in their second iterations already. The Prius and the Civic Hybrid represent the vanguard of what will surely be the near future in engine configurations. Please note the use of the term "near future"; the long-term direction of what will drive us into tomorrow is still in the balance.

Once a very clear example of science fiction becoming actual fact is the Honda FCX fuel cell vehicle. The divining rods seem to point to hydrogen power as the next step, a funny coincidence since such systems of propulsion produce water as their combustion by-product. We are not talking of a mere concept that Honda plans to execute, if and when, they deem the time to be ripe. I have driven the FCX personally and am a firm believer in the potential of hydrogen.

Torque claim

The horsepower numbers are quite unremarkable, but it is the torque claim that is burned into my automotive consciousness; 560Nm of pull is substantial in any vehicle manufacturer's book—even for marques that are sporting and exotic in nature. Driving the FCX feels like someone put you in one of those pullback toy cars that have been wound to the limit.

Though this single number does not make the minute FCX any more of a performance auto, the g-forces this can induce in a straight line is really quite surprising. Much of what the FCX can do is directly related to the configuration of the hydrogen-driven electric motor, and not the transmission.

In fact, there are no multiple gears to speak of, just a single, final ratio that is a function of the direct-drive connection of the wheels to the engine. When will such a car see public roads? If I'm not mistaken, these very vehicles are already being leased out to the Japanese public. Even the government has gotten on the hydrogen bandwagon as it has subsidized the alternative fuel, making it free to the public for the next five years.

'Other than petrol'

Other manufacturers are on the "other than petrol" bandwagon too, most notably Mazda and Mitsubishi. The Ford subsidiary showcases the performance of hydrogen in a thusly powered RX-8 sporting coupé and in a Premacy people mover/van. Performance figures are not clear and test drives are not available as of the time of writing.

Mitsubishi, on the other hand, has taken a bold approach to a purely electric-powered vehicle. Pushing the envelope of electricity is the Lancer Miev (Mitsubishi In-wheel Electric Motor Vehicle). Practically a battery-powered Lancer Evolution, 50bhp is available to each wheel's independent motor, but with performance being confirmed by a torque figure even higher than the Honda FCX.

Despite the fuel crisis, our passion for the automobile will apparently continue. Generations of future Filipino motorists will still have the pleasure of seeing cars that uphold the spirit of driving, even when petroleum products truly become fossils. Amen to that.

Penultimate round of Jazz VTEC Media Challenge

AFTER PLACING SECOND AND THIRD place in the previous rounds, Team Philippine Star/Speed Magazine finally took the top podium spot in the penultimate round of the Jazz VTEC Media Challenge held Nov. 19 at the Carmona Racing Circuit.

The consistent driving of the three team members present—Jeff Reyes, Manny de los Reyes and Andy Leuterio—guaranteed their top post and added 30 championship points placing them at second place in the overall standings.

Team Manila Times/dzRH—composed of Media Challenge veterans Vernon Sarne, Brian Afuang, Deo Macalma and Jess Garcia—finally took to the podium, taking second place and earning 27 championship points. They are now tied in fourth place with Team Top Gear Magazine with 60 points.

Series leaders Manila Bulletin had to settle for 3rd place, despite the joint efforts of team members Aris Ilagan, Anjo Perez, Popong Andolong and Aaron Favila. The 24 points they earned helped them maintain their overall lead by 3 points over Team Philippine Star/Speed Magazine.

C! Magazine, earned 21 championship points for placing fourth for the round and third overall with a total of 71 points. Top Gear Magazine placed 5th for the round and earned 18 points. The mixed team of Tessa Salazar (PDI), Bam Olivares (Daily Tribune), Ferdie Baja (dzEC) and Andy Sevilla (Business Mirror) placed 6th for the round, while Team Auto Review/Autoindustriya placed 7th.

Individual standings

Despite the constant heckling from his colleagues, Jeff Reyes (Philippine Star) stood his ground and ran the fastest lap of the day of 1 minute 5.07 seconds. Second place was taken by teammate Manny de los Reyes (1:05.18) and in third place was series leader Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin.

In the individual standings, Ilagan leads the pack with a whopping 84 points. He is followed by MC newbie Iñigo Roces (C! Magazine) with 57 points and Anjo Perez (Manila Bulletin) in 3rd place (54 points).

Despite the changing weather conditions on race day, the four official Jazz VTEC cars held their own powered by Petron Xtra Unleaded gasoline, and running on OEM Goodyear Eagle NCT5 tires. Willie Toledo, Petron Corp.'s technical manager, was onsite and gave a brief talk about Petron Xtra Unleaded and the benefits of using their new and improved formulation.

The 7th season of the Jazz VTEC Media Challenge is presented by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and supported by Petron Xtra Unleaded; Goodyear for the OEM tires, Nodalo's Trading for the race-safety modifications, Igertech for the timing and Aitech for the car stickers. This club event is sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and is organized by ADBM Resources.

The final round of the Jazz VTEC Media Challenge is scheduled on Dec. 3 at the Carmona Racing Circuit.

Kudos to Mitsubishi; NLEX novelties

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

HATS OFF TO MITSUBISHI, PLEASE!

In the latest survey of the J.D. Power Asia Pacific on customer ratings, Mitsubishi has emerged No. 1 in customer satisfaction.

Now on its fifth year of operation, the much-respected J.D. Power Asia Pacific has ranked Mitsubishi the highest with the vehicle sales process in the Philippines.

The sales satisfaction index (SSI) is composed of six sales experience in order of importance-salesperson, paperwork, delivery process, delivery timing, deal and dealer facility.

J.D. Power Asia Pacific said the industry has improved its performance by four points for a score of 844 out of a possible 1,000.

But for Mitsubishi, the improvement was a whopping 13 points from 2004 for a high of SSI 857.

It is interesting to note that Mitsubishi has also led the industry in three of six SSI factors—salesperson, delivery process and delivery timing.

In fact, Mitsubishi's delivery timing has been found to be only 3.2 days—a benchmark in the industry.

Isn't it true that in our country, it takes days, if not weeks or even months before one can finally acquire his/her dream vehicle?

But the car dealer is not entirely to blame. Much of the blame is heaped on the government, particularly the Land Transportation Office (LTO). Most of the time, the bottleneck occurs at LTO, particularly on the area of releasing the car plates on time.

Ask any dealer and you will readily receive this answer: "On our part, we want to deliver the purchased vehicle as fast as we can. Who doesn't want to earn quick?"

* * *

Now it can be told. GM, the world No. 1 automaker, will declare bankruptcy shortly.

It will be remembered that only last month, GM absorbed a staggering $1-billion plus in losses. That is unprecedented in the history of the vehicle giant.

Surely, that might not augur well for the industry as it could trigger a worldwide chain reaction. I mean, many customers at times think differently and might interpret this as the impending doomsday in the automotive industry.

I must say, though, that what's going to happen to one vehicle company does not necessarily mean it can trigger a domino effect. No, far from that.

The motoring industry is as vibrant as ever, not to mention that the world has become so diversified it can withstand radical developments from all fronts. In China alone, the automotive boom looms in the horizons that even Volkswagen's market dominance there over the years has been forecast to crumble if the giant automaker doesn't make the appropriate changes soon.

I should know. I was in Shanghai just very recently and although Volkswagen still controls the taxi fleet business in the city now known as the "New York City of Asia," the signs of collapse are there and if Volkswagen doesn't watch it, a new leader may emerge in 2006. Could it be Toyota? I can see Nobuharu Tabata smiling.

China itself has been expanding its car-building programs and expects to sell 640,000 of its own models middle of next year. If that's not flexing one's muscles, what is?

* * *

NLEX NOTES. Speaking of the Chinese, more and more Chinese from the Mainland are now frequenting resorts at Clark and Subic and in Pangasinan (the much-improved Hundred Islands in Alaminos has become a favorite destination) and that is attributed mainly to the world-class North Luzon Expressway. With the NLEX now at par with world-class standards, land travel to Central and Northern Luzon has become a viable option again for tourists, businessmen and investors. Do you know that many tourist destinations in Clark, Subic, Pangasinan and even Zambales have upgraded their service amenities for the benefit of modern-day luxury-seeking tourists? I was told the resort owners of La Union have followed suit, too. Cheers, Ping DJ and Marlene O! Keep up the good work!

* * *

QUOTE ME. It's getting colder these days. So, use that car aircon sparingly now to save on fuel.

In the car capital of Australia

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

MELBOURNE—THE CAPITAL CITY OF Victoria state is the car capital of Australia. I wouldn't have discovered this little-known fact had I not come here with a high school classmate for a 12-day visit with her cousin, a long-time Melbourne resident. This is my second sojourn to Australia this year, having been invited to Sydney and Brisbane last March by Toyota for their Great IMPV (International Multipurpose Vehicle) Adventure.

Sydney, Melbourne's northern rival, has 640,000 more people but there are 42,000 more cars here. According to figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics cited in the Herald Sun last Friday, there are 2.12 million cars registered in Melbourne. At 10.2 years, cars here are older than the national average. The total number of cars registered in Australia is 13.9 million.

Down Under

Per the ABS Motor Vehicles Census, Kia is the fastest-growing passenger vehicle manufacturer Down Under. The taxicabs in Melbourne are Ford Falcons. In fact, the Ford Falcon XT, together with General Motors' Holden Commodore Executive, Mitsubishi 380 (the Aussie version of the Galant, it replaces the Magna) and the Hyundai Sonata Elite, is a finalist in the large car category of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria's (RACV) Best Cars Awards for 2005. Australia's Best Cars Awards only consider the top-selling vehicle in any model's lineup. There are 12 categories and the finalists, the top point-scorers in each of the categories, are subjected to vigorous side-by-side testing and re-scoring by nine judges from RACV and its sister auto clubs in all the states.

In categories where the initial scores for some vehicles are particularly close, four vehicles will undergo final evaluation rather than the usual three. The winners will be proclaimed in a special 16-page feature in the December issue of RoyalAuto, the magazine for RACV members.

LPG capital

Aside from being the car capital of Australia, Melbourne is the LPG capital as 113,000 vehicles here are powered by LPG compared with only 30,000 in Sydney. LPG pumps are found in many of the gas stations in Melbourne.

Surprisingly, at around A$1.19 a liter, diesel fuel in Melbourne is more expensive than gasoline which, as of last week, was fluctuating between A$1.09 and A$1.13 per liter. In 2004, gasoline cost only around 85 cents a liter. (The current exchange rate is P40 per Australian dollar.)

F1 host

Melbourne has another edge over Sydney, motoring-wise, in that it hosts the Formula One Grand Prix, having grabbed the world's most prestigious motor sport event from Adelaide in late 1993. But while this year marked the tenth time that the F1 race was held at Melbourne's Albert Park, it also was reportedly the fifth year of operating losses for the event. Alan Attwood, writing in last Saturday's edition of The Age, reports that Melbourne's F1 GP posted a $13.6 million operating loss for 2005. Attwood, who has covered the GP since its Adelaide days, disputes the joint announcement of the State Government and the GP promoters that the GP generated a "gross economic benefit of $174.8 million" to the State of Victoria from the influx of international and interstate visitors. Attwood and other opponents to hosting F1 point out that the motor-racing event is attracting fewer people every year: 369,000 this year—8 percent lower than 2004 and 31,499 fewer than the first GP crowd in 1996 of 401,000.

2006 Grand Prix

He doubts that crowd figures will improve for the 2006 GP since, instead of staging the first event on the F1 calendar next year, Melbourne will host the third stage as the Commonwealth Games will be held first. Moreover, the crowd-pulling power of Australian driver Mark Webber has been reduced by a disappointing 10th place in his debut season; a rival racing circuit, the A1 Grand Prix, has emerged; and starting in October 2006, tobacco advertising will be banned at all sporting events in Australia. Since cigarette money plays a major role in F1 sponsorship, the State Government will be expected to make up the shortfall, Attwood contends, aside from paying the hefty annual license fee which is estimated at $20 million.

Nonetheless, hosting the glamorous, exciting F1 event is undoubtedly the feather in Melbourne's cap as the car capital of Australia. And if you were to ask me, I would prefer to come back to Melbourne next year to attend the Formula One Grand Prix rather than the Commonwealth Games.

New cars, campaigns spice up last quarter

Compiled by Tessa R. Salazar

TALK ABOUT BEATING THE 2005 DEADLINE with three loud bangs. Cats Motors Philippines lavishly launched three new premium automobiles.

The New S-Class, the flagship model of Mercedes-Benz; the B-Class, a touring, family and recreational vehicle; and the new M-Class, Benz's trendsetter among modern off-roaders, were introduced simultaneously at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. *(See related story on the other page.)*

11 projects win Ford grants

ELEVEN ORGANIZATIONS THAT AIM TO preserve and protect the environment and the country's natural environment and heritage has won P2.5 million worth of grants from Ford Motors Philippines. These are: Katala Ecology and Biodiversity Center of the Katala Foundation; Bayanihan sa Kasagraduhan ng Bundok Banahaw by Mother Earth Foundation; the establishment of the Ford Arboretum of Philippine Endangered and Unique Tree Species at the La Mesa Nature Reserve by Bantay Kalikasan;

The rehabilitation of Lahar Areas: Farming system by Technology Utilization and Livelihood Assistance to Yeomanry; The Enduring Heritage Harvest: How Young Ifugaos Tell the Story of Their Rice Culture by Team Tomonah;

The Second Moonrise Environmental Documentary Film Festival by the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education; Conserve the Cuartel de Sto. Domingo by the City of Sta. Rosa Laguna;

Bamboo Engineering Methods and Building Uses by Cabiokid Foundation; Small-scale composting from Rural Community Biodegradable Waste by Nutrition Center of the Philippines;

Pawikan Pauwiin sa Karagatan by Ramon Flores—an individual entry; and Engaging the Youth Sector in Biodiversity Conservation: An advocacy on illegal wildlife trade by Haribon Foundation.

The Ford program has provided a total of P15-million funds to support 48 environmental projects since its inception in 2000.

Leading the panel of judges for 2005 are Ford Philippines president Henry Co, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Mike Defensor, Philippine Council for NGO certification director Felicidad Soledad, Newsbreak editor in chief Marites Vitug, GMA 7 reporter Howie Severino and Board of Investments office of industrial policy director Erlinda Arcellana.

Mitsubishi holds 2005 Skills Olympics

MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES CORP. (MMPC) recently concluded its annual Skills Olympics for its dealers on Nov. 12-13.

"The Skills Olympics promotes competitiveness to which we improve the level of quality and consistency in dealing with our customers," said Yoshiaki Ichimura, MMPC senior executive vice president for marketing.

Ichimura said Mitsubishi has been able to achieve the highest ranking in SSI for two years in a row based on the latest announcement by JD Power. "At the end of the day, our loyal customers are the ones really benefiting from this contest," he added.

A total of 88 participants from MMPC's nationwide dealership network competed.

The winners are Dorris de Guzman of Diamond Motor Corp. Greenhills for vehicle sales; Alexander Zita of Carworld Inc. Pampanga for genuine parts merchandising.

Champion of service advisers is Joy Buaya of Mindanao Integrated Commercial Enterprises Inc., Gen. Santos; Raul Sabben of Carworld, Pampanga is the service technician winner; Carworld Inc. Pampanga is the service team champion; and Carworld is the 2005 Mitsubishi Skills Olympics overall champion.

The champions of each category received cash prizes and trophies from Mitsubishi Motors Philippines.

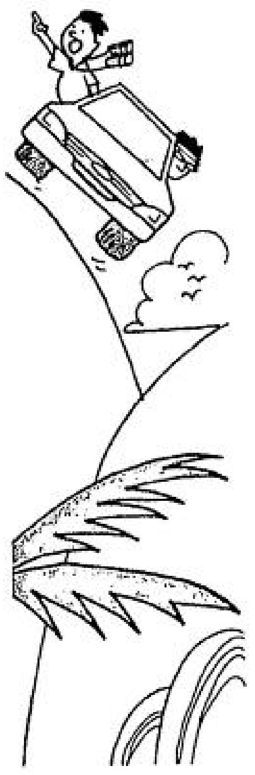
Mazda opens Makati dealership

MAZDA OPENED ITS FOURTH DEALERSHIP on Nov. 18 on Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Sabio St., Kayamanan B; Makati City.

Edmund Yee, Mazda Makati dealer principal welcomed guests, customers and the media during the opening. Since the launch of Mazda in February 2004, it has introduced four vehicles in the Philippines: the Mazda6, Tribute, Mazda3 sedan and the five-door.

Gerry Alejandro, newly appointed managing director of Mazda Philippines, said "the Makati dealership is proof of Mazda's aggressive stance and accelerated growth in the highly competitive automotive market."

Other Mazda showrooms are located on Quezon Avenue; in Sto. Domingo, Quezon City; at the corner of Edsa and Rocester Street, Greenhills East; Mandaluyong City and on Alabang-Zapote Road, Filinvest Corporate City.



Team Philippines at Rainforest Challenge

LARRY MENDIOLA AND ATOY JAMILA III are set to compete in the Rainforest Challenge (RFC) of Malaysia, which flags off Nov. 26. The RFC is an ultimate 4x4 adventure competition with the goal of surmounting the Malay peninsula, which features some of the oldest and most majestic rainforests of the world.

Mendiola is an ace driver-mechanic, while Jamila is a mountaineering expert and seasoned off-road driver.

"There are many disciplines involved in the RFC event—accurate driving, navigation, trouble-shooting, recovery, camping and survival in unpredictable circumstances," said Robby Consunji, president of Maven Management Inc., the official representative of RFC Philippines.

Team Philippines is supported by Columbia Sportswear, Rudy Project, Sunbolt, Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (VRPMC), Autotechnika and Energizer Hard Case Flashlight/Batteries.

New face of 2006 Vios

THE NEW VIOS HAS BEEN REDESIGNED with new exterior features and interior refinements with sporty front grille which flaunts a new flat-mesh design; new pair of headlamps that combine with the newly repositioned turn signal lamps and new round-design foglamps.

An all-new front bumper with blacked out European-style air intakes; its bigger and more stylish new seven-spoke 185/60R 15-inch alloy wheels and wider low-profile rubber that not only give the top-of-the-line Vios 1.5G an even sportier look, but enhance cornering capabilities.

The Vios 1.3E variant has a new eight-spoke-design 14-inch alloy wheel. There's also new chrome strips on the doors' side moldings protecting the door sides from dents and scratches, and benefits from side-turn signal lamps that have been added to the front fenders to make turns and lane changes even safer.

There's a new rear combination lamp design with a 3D Reflex Reflector. It has new seat fabric material; a seat height adjuster; console box lid; front passenger seat undertray. The Vios 1.5G's new Fujitsu-Ten 2-DIN audio system that plays CDs and MP3s. All Vios models also benefit from a new Euro-style short-mast antenna that provides crystal-clear reception for FM and AM radio stations.

A change in the color shade of the 1.5G's digital instrument cluster display that further enhances legibility of its already easy-to-read center-mounted gauges. Even the 1.3 variants undergo the same enhancement, thanks to redesigned faces on its analogue instrument panel.

Vios has been the undisputed leader in the small passenger car segment in the country, grabbing almost 48 percent of its market this year and sales of over 700 units per month in the first eight months of 2005 alone.

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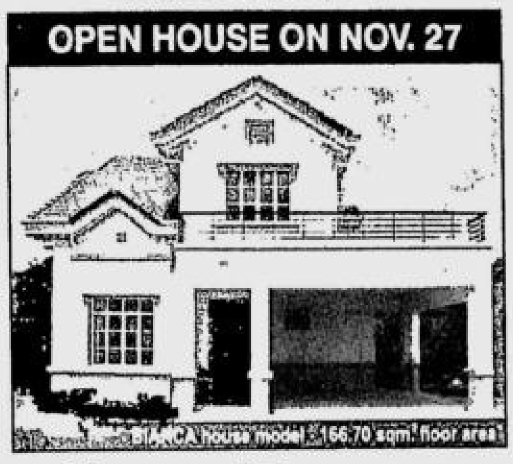

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CARS

HONDA

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ISUZU

02 Trooper/30Kms/1Own/1.50M 09283867789 / 09284331233

'79 Elf alum delivery van well maintained 9137267;9137270

NISSAN

NISSAN BRAND NEW PROMO! SENTRA NO DP URVAN 95T DP X-TRAIL 70T DP 09172587749

MOTORCYCLE

5Units 2002 Honda XLR200 0928-3895123, 0921-4940938

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COASTWISE TUGBOAT TWIN ENG'NE 500HP 4 RENT/SALE T5219009/5249540/5252751

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office Luzon Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City invites all interested Grains Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for handling the movement of grain stocks and by-products in the warehouses, ricemills and other installations of Region III and to load/unload to/from trucks said commodities with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the year 2006 as follows:

PROVINCES	LOT NO.	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (IN BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Aurora	I	GID-Baler	169,400	772,464.00
		Bartolome-Ma. Aurora		
		GID-Casiguran		
Bataan	II	GID 1 & 2-Balanga	261,875	1,157,487.50
		FLGC-Dinalupihan		
Bulacan	III	GID 1,2 & 3-Balagtas	345,000	1,669,800.00
	IV	GID 1 & 2-San Ildefonso	120,000	580,800.00
	V	GID 1 & 2-Tikay	330,000	1,597,200.00
	VI	GID 1 & 2-Sta. Rita	185,000	895,400.00
	VII	TLL Whses-Marilao	1,197,750	5,797,110.00
Nueva Ecija	VIII	Whse 1-13-Cab City	1,428,400	6,942,024.00
		Whse 1 & 2-Gapan		
	IX	Aliaga Whse-Aliaga	265,500	1,290,330.00
		GID-Bongabon		
		Guimba Whse 1-2		
Pampanga	X	Sindalan 1 and 2	523,800	2,472,336.00
	XI	Del Rosario Whse	190,000	896,800.00
Tarlac	XII	Aguso 1-3 & 5	303,750	1,579,500.00
	XIII	GID 1-3	239,700	1,246,440.00
		Concepcion-Jefmin		
Zambales	XIV	GID and Mango Terminal-Iba	107,500	539,650.00
	XV	Castillejos Whse	55,875	280,492.50

The prospective bidder may bid in any or all lots upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P 500.00, bidding fee of P 2,500.00 and submission of a certified photocopy each of the following documents:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Official Receipt

The issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

	PARTICULARS	DATE
1.	Issuance of Application and Bidding Documents	November 24-December 14, 2005
2.	Pre-Bidding Conference	December 15, 2005 (10:00AM)
3.	Deadline of submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	December 28, 2005 (10:00AM)

Eligibility criteria includes, among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices using the wholesale consumer price index completed and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044)-463-1167, (044)-463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Asst. Regional Director/
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – November 23 & 30, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of HERMENEGILDO M. CURIO have executed a Deed of Adjudication with Waiver of his estate covered by TCT # N-176108 of Reg. of Deeds for QC on Nov. 21, 2005 per Doc 340; Page 69; Book VIII; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty Lourdes T. Pagayatan of QC.
PDI-Nov 23,30 & Dec 7, 2005

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that FIRST METRO INVESTMENT CORP. stock certificate no. 100015050 for 5220 shares issued to LOURDES C. GO-QUINGCO was reported lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI-Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7 2005

Notice is hereby given that stock certificate No. A-0654 issued by SHERWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB INC for 1 share to DANILO CHICO has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 2005)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

GRAND ORIENT INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT SERVICES is applying for a license as a land-based recruiting agency with the following manpower complement:

Divine A. Laus-Viray	General Manager
Francisco E. Laus Jr.	Assistant Manager
Junneth L. Sanchez	Recruitment & Documentation Officer
Jun-Jun M. Laus	Liaison Officer
Josephine L. Viray	Secretary

Its postal address at
94-96 CSV Bldg., 2nd flr.
Katipunan Ave. Ext. Kingspoint Subd.
Novaliches with tel no. 936-1543

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that BOI Certificate of Registration No. 90-097 issued on 11 June 1990 as New Operator of Tourist Accommodation Facilities (Beach Resort) under the name of Alegre Resort Corporation was lost.
(PDI-Nov 23, 2005)

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"A Glimpse of Heaven for Three Blessed Years"

Vanessa Nicole Lee Lim

August 2, 2002 - November 20, 2005

We, Vanika's loving parents, Willy and Tiffany, brothers Justin and Jaden, grandparents Vicente and Juanita, Uncles Alex and Edward, Auntie Jenny, Uncle Angel & Auntie Jojo, cousins Joan, Michael, Vincent and Daniel, and other loved ones, request you to join us in celebrating Vanika's joining the choir of angels. At three years, she has touched so many hearts and we are truly grateful for every single minute she has spent with us.

Her remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Capilla de la Virgen, Forbes Park, Makati City. Daily masses will be held at 7:00pm

Interment will be on Saturday, November 26, 2005 at 1:00 pm at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig after the 11:00 am Holy Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla de la Virgen.
Please omit flowers.

THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF MARY
Invite you to pray to God with us
As we offer our prayers and sacrifices
for the soul of our dear

SISTER MA. SALUD S. MORALEDA, FMM

Who passed away on November 20, 2005 at the age of 77.

She survived by her sisters, **Sister Lourdes S. Moraleda, OP, Rosario S. Moraleda, MD**, cousins, nieces and nephews.
She is predeceased by his sisters and brother, **Ma. Sutileza S. Moraleda (†), Josefina S. Moraleda (†), Azarias S. Moraleda, MD (†)**

FUNERAL MASS WILL BE ON
November 24, 2005 at 8:00 AM
At the
CHAPEL OF THE LILIES
STELLA MARIS COLLEGE, Cambridge St., Cubao, Quezon City
INTERMENT WILL FOLLOW AT THE
TAGAYTAY FMM CEMETERY

In Loving Memory
95th BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Don Manuel Cancio

(November 23, 1910 - June 29, 2002)

On the occasion of the 95th Birth Anniversary of the late Don Manuel Cancio, his family and friends will offer masses at the following parishes today, November 23, 2005:

MASS SCHEDULE

Church	*Time*
Chapel of Saints Pio and Philomena *Goodwill Corporate Center Building* *393 Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue* *Makati City*	12:00 nn
Santuario de San Antonio *Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 am
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia corner Kalayaan Avenue* *Bel-Air II, Makati City*	6:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church *National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary* *Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 am
Sta. Teresita Parish *43 Kanlaon Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City*	6:00 am
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz Street, Makati City, Metro Manila*	6:30 am
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish *M.H. Del Pilar corner A. Flores* *Ermita, Manila*	12:00 nn

THE GOODWILL BOOKSTORE FAMILY, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

The Board of Directors, Management & Staff of the AAI Group of Companies (AAI Holdings Inc., Airlift Asia Inc. (Manila & Cebu), Asia Ocean Services Inc., Airlift Asia Customer Brokerage Inc., AAI Logistics Inc., A2Z Logistics Inc., JIT Freight Inc., Freight Assurance Agency Inc., AAI Business Pro Inc., & AAI Charity Foundation Inc.), mourn the passing away of

CONRADO U. PUENTES

Beloved President of Airlift Asia Inc.

Please join us as we pray for his eternal repose.

His body lies in state at Jose Rizal Chapel,
La Funeraria Paz-Sucat
(inside Manila Memorial Park).

Interment will be on Saturday, November 26, 2005
after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

PEDRO BLAS M. PENEYRA

Who died in the grace of our Lord
on November 21, 2005.

He is survived by his mother Adela; brothers and sisters **Liberato, Rolando, Evelyn, Marilyn, Antonio, William, Leah & Mario.**

His remains lie in state at Chapel 12, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

His body will be cremated on Sunday, November 27, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Paz Crematory.

DEATH NOTICES

HERMINIA HUGO-CORDEZ

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on November 16, 2005 at the age of 67.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Nabua, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be on November 27, 2005 at Nabua Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Dearly Beloved

IRENEA LACHENAL SANTOS

"Mama Renee"

Peacefully joined our Creator on
November 21, 2005 at the age of 77.

Her loving husband **Andres** (†), children **Elena & Rogelio, Alfredo & Concepcion, Roberto & Elizabeth, Nora Maria & Eligio, Andrew & Emily**, grandchildren, great grandchildren & relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Baltazar Chapel, Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 24, 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration Regional Office No. 7&8
Tacloban City, Leyte
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities
Development Project
(ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

November 23, 2005
World Bank/IBRD
Loan. No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay Datag, Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) through the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No 7 & 8, Tacloban City, implementing partner of Department of Agrarian Reform for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Rehabilitation of Datag Communal Irrigation System under Contract No. RIIRR 05 124 02 ALB-NO**

Project Duration: 240 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PhP 6,000.00
Minimum Bid Security: Php 250,000.00
Bid Closing Date: December 23, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Description	Percentage Weight
I	Diversion Works (Improvement of Existing Ogee Dam)	18.24%
II	Canal System	
a.	Canalization	69.67%
b.	Canal Structures	3.47%
III	Farm Level Facilities	6.91%
IV	Project Facilities	1.62%
V	Mobilization/Demobilization	0.19%

(PDI – November 23, 2005)

Minimum Equipments Required

Hauling Truck (3 units)- owned; Hydraulic Excavator (1 unit) – owned Vibratory Plate Compactor (1 unit) – owned; 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer (4 units) - owned; Concrete Vibrator (1 unit) – owned; 4" o water pumps (3 units) - owned; survey instruments (1 unit) - leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, NIA Regional Office No. 7&8, Tacloban City, Leyte and at the BAC Sub-office at the Negros Oriental Provincial Irrigation Office, Sibulan, Negros Oriental starting November 24, 2005 from 8:00A.M. to 5:00P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 6,000.00 for each set. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Negros Oriental Provincial Irrigation Office, Sibulan, Negros Oriental on December 2, 2005 at 10:00 AM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP 250,000.00 in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the Regional BAC Secretariat Office at the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 7&8, Tacloban City, and its sub-office stationed at the Negros Oriental Provincial Irrigation Office, Sibulan, Negros Oriental, on or before the Bid closing date on December 23, 2005 at 10:00 AM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend at the Negros Oriental Provincial Irrigation Office, Sibulan, Negros Oriental.

The NIA Regional Irrigation Office 7 & 8- ARCDPII BAC, Tacloban City, Leyte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) GLORIA A. SEVILLA
Chairman, NIA RIO – 7 &8 BAC, ARCDPII

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dungan Constructors & Trading has been incorporated and registered with Securities and Exchange Commission on June 3, 2005 as DUNGAN CONSTRUCTORS AND TRADING CORP. with company Registration No. CS200509772

(PDI – November 23, 2005)

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BUSINESS

Gov't eyes negotiated sale of former IS property

By Michelle V. Remo

AFTER ANOTHER FAILED BIDDING LAST week, the government has decided to dispose of the 4.8-hectare former International School property in Makati City through a negotiated sale with either the Ayala Land Inc. or the Gokongwei group.

The failed bidding last Nov. 17 was contrary to expectations that big property developers would aggressively compete for the land. The former IS property, near Makati's central business district, is considered ideal for the development of high-rise residential buildings or a business complex.

Jose A.R. Bengzon III, chief privatization officer of the Privatization Management Office (PMO), said Robinsons Land Corp. and Ayala Land Inc. showed up at the bidding, but had decided not to submit their bids.

The two were probably still trying to get a an idea of each other's bid and wanted a price lower than the minimum set by the government which was P1.186 billion, he said.

Burgundy Realty Corp. and Centuries Property Group, which were expected to participate in the bidding, did not show up.

He said the Privatization Management Office would give ALI and Robinsons Land until today to negotiate with privatization officials. "We will choose the one that will give us a better price," he said.

Bengzon said that by tomorrow, the PMO should already have the result of the negotiations and be prepared to give the inter-agency Privatization Office a recommendation.

He said it was unlikely that the government could still sell the property at the floor price, which the prospective buyers apparently found to be high.

The former IS property has been on the list of assets for privatization since August 2000.

Proceeds from the government's privatization efforts are partly earmarked for infrastructure development, which the national government's tight budget could not fully cover.

US, EU urged to cut farm subsidies, tariffs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER DEVELOPING countries in Asia Pacific have pushed for the reduction of subsidies and tariff shields in developed nations, such as the United States and member-countries of the European Union, according to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila.

The trade chief represented the country in the recent meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economic ministers in Busan, South Korea.

Favila said the reduction of subsidies and the level of trade protection extended to the agricultural sectors of these rich countries would allow poorer countries to compete in a level playing field.

"Developed countries that strongly support their agricultural sector, provide all sorts of subsidies to their farmers. We don't have those in developing countries," Favila said.

He said this was the "general sentiment" among Apec ministers and that they hoped disagreements over the proposed cuts in agricultural export subsidies would be ironed out to save the World Trade Organization's sixth ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in December from failure.

"Everybody has admitted we simply have to move forward and ensure that we are able to successfully hurdle the forthcoming WTO talks," he said.

Developing countries, which have a comparative advantage in agriculture, have refused to sign a trade liberalization agreement unless developed countries, like those belonging to the European Union (EU), reduce the level of protection given to their agriculture sectors.

Favila said that in various trade ministers' meetings that he had attended, there were some commitments made by developed countries that they would "do everything possible to help out" in order to make deeper cuts in the agricultural export subsidies.

"They are prepared to make adjustments because they put the challenge on the table," he said. "It is a statement they made themselves, and I'm sure they are prepared to be flexible to get everybody to agree," he says.

Petron keeps LPG price steady

PETRON CORP. SAID IT HAD KEPT THE price of Gasul stable despite the increases in the prices of other LPG brands in the last two weeks.

Other oil companies have increased LPG prices twice since last week by a total of P1.50 per kilogram. For the standard 11-kilogram household cylinder, Petron Gasul's price is lower by P16.50 per tank.

With Petron's decision not to follow suit, Gasul's price is now the lowest in the LPG market.

"With the expected softening of the international contract price of LPG next month, we see no need to pass on our additional costs in November to consumers," Petron public affairs manager Virginia A. Ruivivar said.

Data from the Department of Energy show that the contract price for LPG in November rose to $549 per metric ton from $519 per metric ton in October.

The company said it hoped that its decision not to raise its LPG prices would prompt its competitors to match its lower prices.

"We are hopeful that our move to keep our Gasul prices stable will moderate the increases of our competitors," Ruivivar added.

Latest industry data show that Petron controls about 27 percent of the LPG market. Overall, the company has a 38.2 percent share of the market.

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12 months	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%	3.7500%

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2680 Series of 2005

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The write stuff for an ambitious first novel

Ross Cleofe, a published author at 24, went the usual route in getting 'The China Squadron' published

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc
2bU! Correspondent

HOW DO YOU GET a novel published in the Philippines?

Well, find out if any of your friends, even long-lost ones, or relatives, even fourth degree ones, are working in any publishing house and submit your manuscript through them.

Or you can work hard to be a famous columnist and wait for an offer to turn your columns into a book, Carrie Bradshaw-style.

Ross Cleofe, a 24-year-old nursing student didn't do any of these. Instead, he tried the good old-fashioned way of sending copies of his manuscripts to all publishing houses, the way J.K. Rowling and Stephen King did.

Apparently, this slow, tedious route to being published does work in this country. Today, his first novel, "The China Squadron," is enjoying brisk sales at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

How did he do it? In the first place, publishing houses in the Philippines aren't that many. In the second place, how do you know their addresses?

Ross laughed and narrated how he didn't want to spend money on books just to find out the names of the publishers and their contact information. So he did the next best thing. He went over to the nearest bookstore, memorized the publishing houses of the local books on display, and searched for their contact information in the telephone directory and on the Internet.

Rejections

As soon as Ross finished his 300-page manuscript, he started mailing copies to different publishing houses. Then he called up each company every week to find out if they were interested. The rejections started trickling in. The press of the premier state university told him that, with their limited budget, they prioritized established writers and academic works. Another publisher acknowledged that his novel was good, but recommended that he try submitting to commercial publishers in the US since his novel was more suited for an American audience.

After reading his second rejection letter, he and his girlfriend headed to Luk Yuen to binge on their favorite comfort food—pork dumplings. Since it was Chinese New Year that day, all customers were given fortune cookies. His fortune read: "Persevere in what you do best, and you will succeed." Ross took that as a sign from heaven, so he continued phoning publishers.

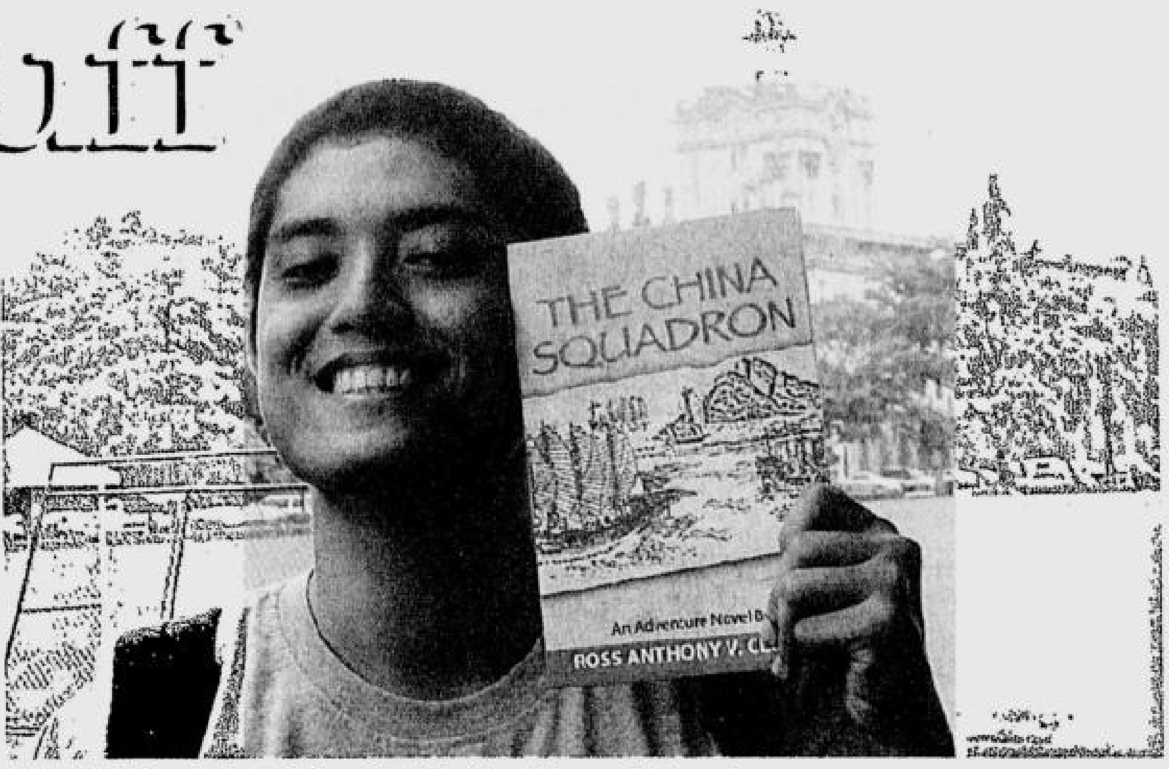
Didn't he get discouraged by these rejections? "I had a Plan B, actually," he answered. "Since I was planning to work as a nurse in the United States, I intended to submit my manuscript to publishing houses over there. So I guess I wasn't very discouraged since I figured I might as well get used to being rejected." With this optimism, he continued hounding publishers with what he called the dogged persistence of the paparazzi.

Acceptance

After eight weeks, in what seemed like the umpteenth call to UST Press, his manuscript was finally accepted. Then, like manna from heaven, three other publishers also offered to publish his work. But he chose UST Press because it gave him the best deal.

A flurry of meetings with editors and graphic designers followed. Finally, Ross had his book-launching party at UST. He wasn't the only author, though. UST was launching other books as well. His fellow authors included teachers, professors and even a medical doctor, making him one of the youngest authors that day. Today, his book has been lauded as "ambitious and breathtaking" by Dr. Mechelin Intia-Manalastas, director of UST Publishing House. Jacs Sampayan of People Asia Magazine has called his work such "an amusing adventure" that a reader "can hardly tell that it is actually dealing with real-life history."

Exactly what is it about his novel that has people thrice his age raving about it? With no formal training in writing novels, save for journalism classes back in college and a brief stint as a 2bU! correspondent, Ross relied on his passions for writing and history.


THE YOUNG and talented: Ross Cleofe holds up his very first novel.

Since people enjoy adventure books like "The Lord of the Rings" and "Harry Potter," he predicted they would also enjoy a similar novel about exciting exploits right here in Asia. Ross, ever the history buff, informs us that 600 years ago, the Chinese navy had more battleships than all European navies combined. Impressed by the grandeur of the Chinese Empire, he wrote a novel which chronicles the adventures of 10,000 Chinese sailors aboard eight gigantic treasure ships. They are led by Admiral Kuo, a fictional character based on a real-life Chinese admiral, Zheng He. In the book, the sailors discover the mysteries of Cambodia's Angkor Wat, become embroiled in naval battles, fight a Sumatran pirate, and discover a unique kingdom hidden in Palawan's jungles.

Ross isn't one to rest on his laurels though. Although his first novel has just been launched, he is already hard at work on his second book, a collection of essays and short stories. This early, Ross is already negotiating with UST Press about its publication. Though he need not go through the whole calvary of cold calls and rejection letters for his next work, Ross knows his journey is just beginning. He dreams of publishing "The China Squadron" in the US, since he believes "Americans are fascinated by Asian culture and history."

Certainly, the days of mailing manuscripts and getting rejection letters are far from over. "If I really want something, I know I have to make many sacrifices and meet many more disappointments," says Ross.

It's just as well that he's undaunted because it may be that his best story is yet to come.

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Survey says ...

Cartoon Network finds Pinoy kids are no couch potatoes

By Francine Palines
2bU! Correspondent

LEAVE IT TO WHITney and her titanium vocal chords to remind us that the children are, indeed, the future. And, as it turns out, the children are also the present.

Surveys, in general, provide organized data that offer a general conclusion on something. But rarely do you see this kind of research focused on children.

Duncan Morris, vice president of Research in Turner Entertainment Networks Asia,

SURVEY/C3

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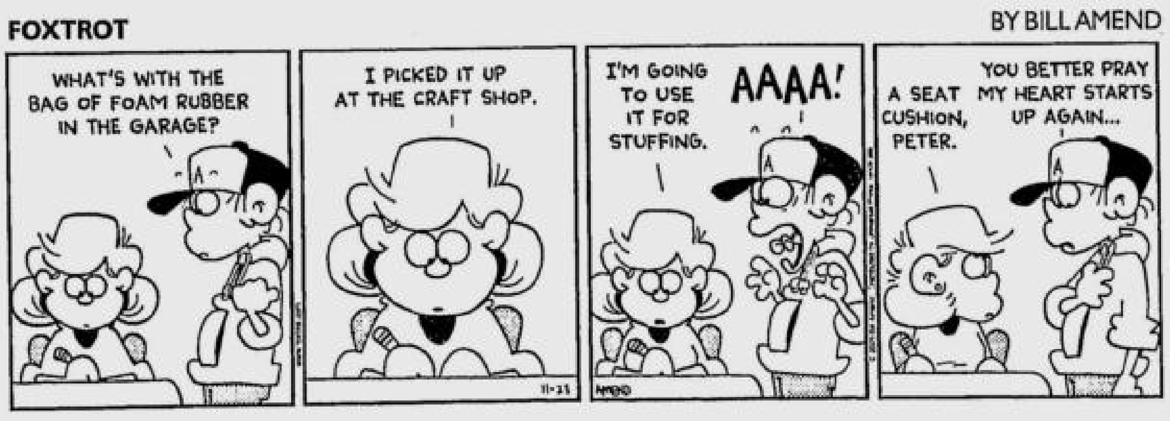
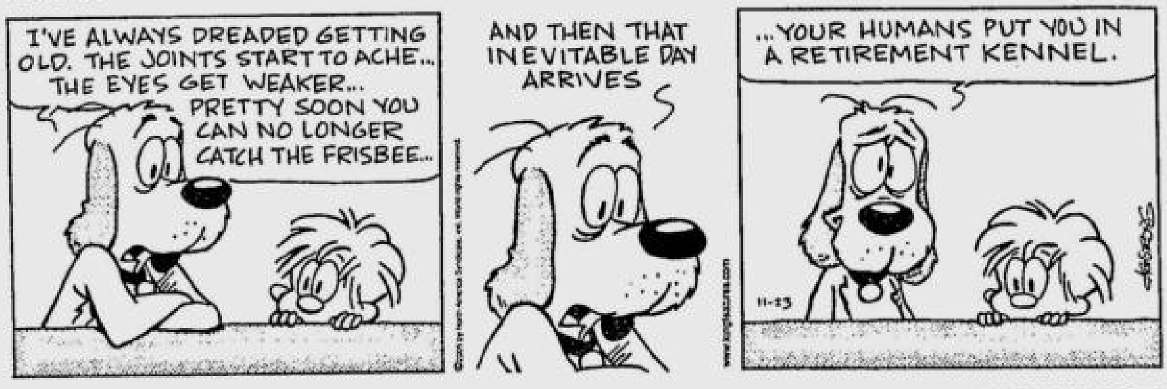
BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S WITH THE BAG OF FOAM RUBBER IN THE GARAGE?
I PICKED IT UP AT THE CRAFT SHOP.
I'M GOING TO USE IT FOR STUFFING.
AAAA!
A SEAT CUSHION, PETER.
YOU BETTER PRAY MY HEART STARTS UP AGAIN...
11-23

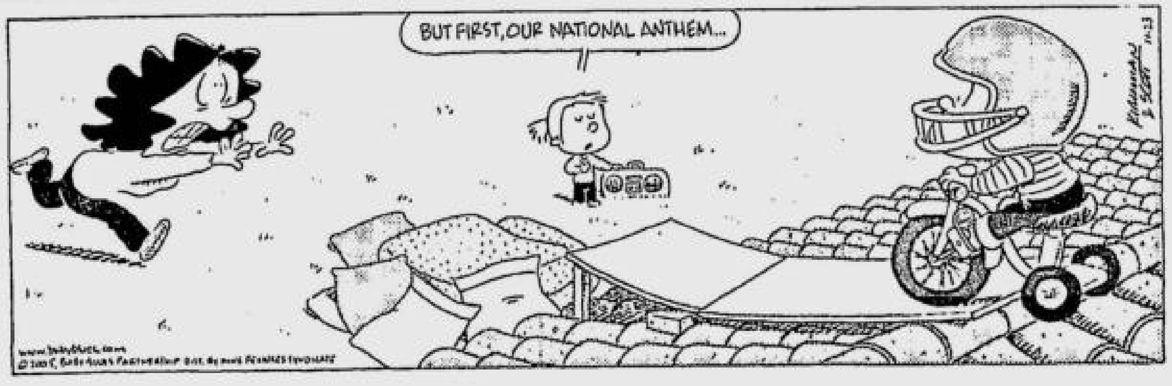
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'VE ALWAYS DREADED GETTING OLD. THE JOINTS START TO ACHE... THE EYES GET WEAKER... PRETTY SOON YOU CAN NO LONGER CATCH THE FRISBEE...
AND THEN THAT INEVITABLE DAY ARRIVES
...YOUR HUMANS PUT YOU IN A RETIREMENT KENNEL.
11-23

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BUT FIRST, OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM...
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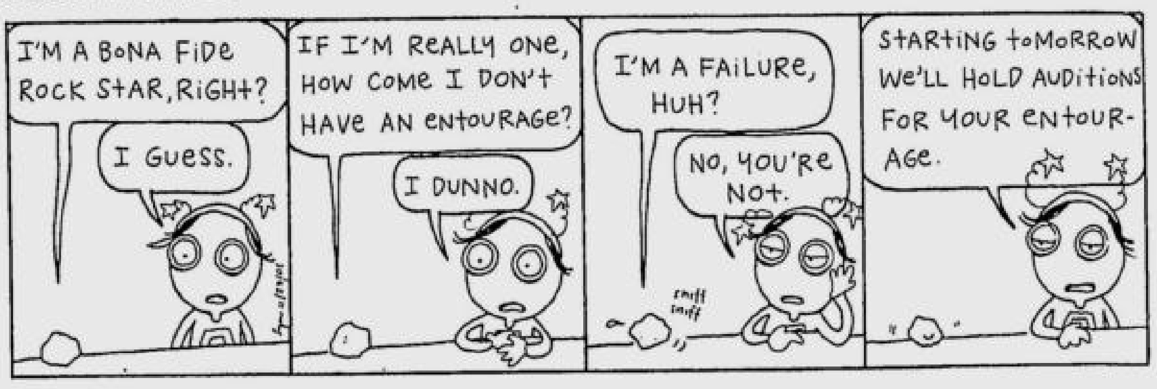
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M A BONA FIDE ROCK STAR, RIGHT?
I GUESS.
IF I'M REALLY ONE, HOW COME I DON'T HAVE AN ENTOURAGE?
I DUNNO.
I'M A FAILURE, HUH?
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
sniff sniff
STARTING TOMORROW WE'LL HOLD AUDITIONS FOR YOUR ENTOURAGE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your enthusiasm for life and your love of adventure make you many friends. People love your charm and respect your honesty. You are an idealist with a fighting spirit. In your 30s, you become serious about "making it" in life. In the year ahead, a major change will open new doors for you. Get ready!
Birthdate of: Boris Karloff, actor; Harpo Marx, comedian; Bruce Hornsby, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be patient with co-workers today. As the day wears on, you might get bogged down in details. Be careful about not seeing the forest because of the trees.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's very easy to feel critical of others today, especially with romantic liaisons and children. Always remember the advice of Goethe: "Criticism does much, but encouragement does more."

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Do not jump to conclusions with partners and close friends today. You have a tendency to think "What's wrong with this picture?" today. Why not look at what's right with it?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be extra-careful when driving, parking, walking or cycling today. Minor accidents and fender-benders are possible simply because of confused thinking.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your critical faculties are sharp today; however, your focus is a bit narrow. You have mouse mind, not eagle mind. Remember to lift up your head now and then to take a look around you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today the Moon moves into your sign. This can make you a bit more excited about things. Just make sure you don't get your belly in a rash. Be cool.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): As the day wears on, you will be best served by pulling your reins in a little and working behind the scenes. Get some rest if you can. Keep a low profile.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Do not chafe if a friend is critical of you today. It is probably well-meaning. And if it isn't, then why is this person your friend?

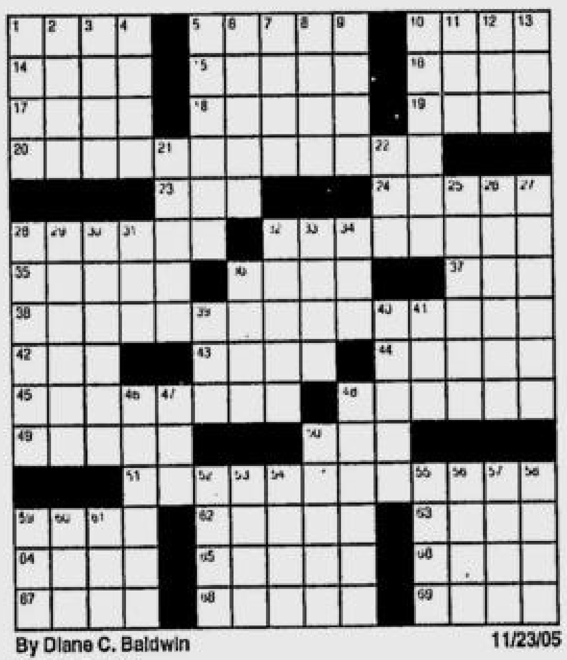
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): People notice you today, for some reason. You might want to be aware of this. If you are irritated with a parent or boss, don't be vocal about it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might talk to someone from another culture or another country today. Be open to discussions about different faiths and different ways of looking at life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Double-check all financial matters today, particularly those connected with banking or the handling of other people's money. Just be aware of what you are doing.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today the Moon moves opposite your sign. When this happens (once each month for about two and a half days), it always draws your attention to others, especially partners and close friends.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

11/23/05

ACROSS
1 Ruckus
5 Beggars' cries
10 Yucatan people
14 On the crest of
15 River horse
16 Beyond
17 Work of fiction
18 Molding curves
19 Shipshape
20 Suggests an exit
23 Sizzling
24 Simba's warnings
28 Ulna's companion
32 Cooking equipment
35 Vertical
36 Little kiss
37 Figure skater Midori
38 Removes forcibly
42 Commotion
43 Land of shamrocks
44 Chopped finely
45 Do-over litigations
48 Transparent curtains
49 Dismal
50 What have we here!
51 Rousts and ousts
59 Harrow part
62 Type of column
63 Shah's realm, once
64 Neck of the woods
65 Practical joke
66 Fellini film
67 Blubber
68 Wise ones
69 Had down pat

DOWN
1 Singer Domino
2 Beehive State
3 On one's own
4 Gush forth
5 Pics
6 Fire up
7 Fencing gear
8 Imitated
9 Only fair
10 Fifth U.S. president
11 Hail to Caesar
12 Approval vote
13 Knack
21 Seals off
22 Killer whale
25 For each
26 To some extent
27 Netlike caps
28 Esteem
29 More desiccated
30 Set apart for a purpose
31 Arctic surface
32 Clairvoyants
33 Be sore
34 Small Hawaiian guitar
36 Donahue or Silvers
39 Kind of pot or bag
40 Impromptu
41 Nice life?
46 Scalawag
47 High dudgeon
48 Shanty town dwellings
50 Speak one's mind
52 Small drinks
53 "__ the Explorer"
54 Hang-up
55 Scottish church
56 Household press
57 Tom, Dick or Harry
58 Chew on
59 Amount of hair gel
60 Lyricist Gershwin
61 Do a tailor's work

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	A	D	S	■	M	C	A	N	■	J	E	S	S
T	A	R	O	T	■	A	R	U	M	■	A	N	T	E
A	C	E	L	A	■	D	A	T	E	■	W	E	A	R
C	H	A	T	T	E	R	B	O	X	■	B	R	I	G
Y	E	S	■	I	R	I	S	H	■	D	R	O	N	E
■	■	■	H	O	A	D	■	A	G	E	E	■	■	■
P	E	C	A	N	■	■	E	R	A	S	A	B	L	E
A	P	O	P	■	T	E	M	P	O	■	K	E	E	L
K	I	D	S	M	E	N	U	■	■	T	E	N	D	S
■	■	■	E	M	A	G	■	L	E	E	R	■	■	■
A	B	A	S	E	■	R	E	I	N	A	■	M	A	S
R	A	M	S	■	J	A	B	B	E	R	W	O	C	K
E	S	A	I	■	A	V	E	R	■	G	E	N	O	A
N	I	N	O	■	V	E	R	A	■	A	L	E	R	T
A	L	A	N	■	A	R	T	S	■	S	T	Y	N	E

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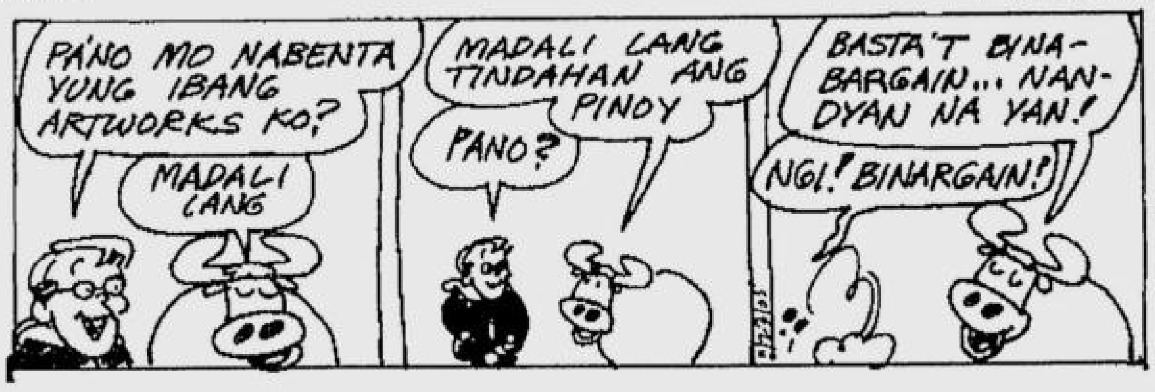
11/22/05

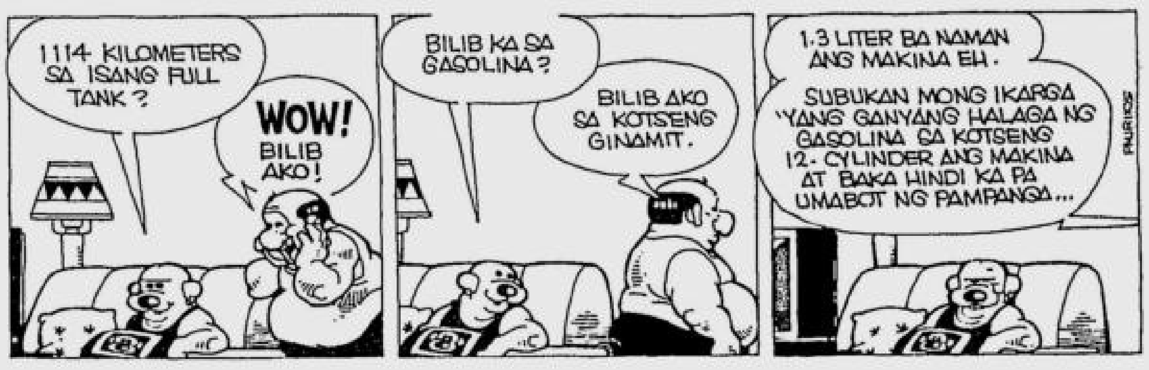
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PA'NO MO NABENTA YUNG IBANG ARTWORKS KO?
MADALI LANG
MADALI LANG TINDAHAN ANG PINOY
PANO?
BASTA'T BINA-BARGAIN... NANDYAN NA YAN!
NGI! BINARGAIN!

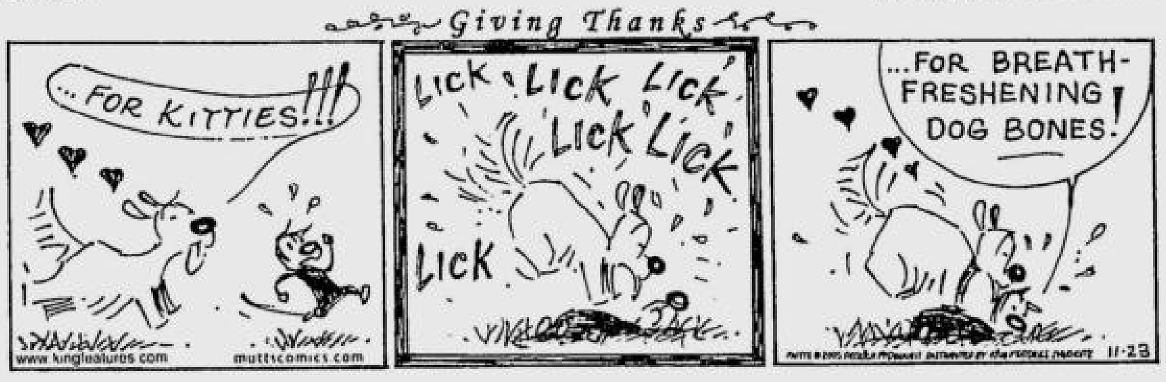
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


1114 KILOMETERS SA ISANG FULL TANK?
WOW! BILIB AKO!
BILIB KA SA GASOLINA?
BILIB AKO SA KOTSENG GINAMIT.
1.3 LITER BA NAMAN ANG MAKINA EH.
SUBUKAN MONG IKARGA 'YANG GANYANG HALAGA NG GASOLINA SA KOTSENG 12-CYLINDER ANG MAKINA AT BAKA HINDI KA PA UMABOT NG PAMPANGA...

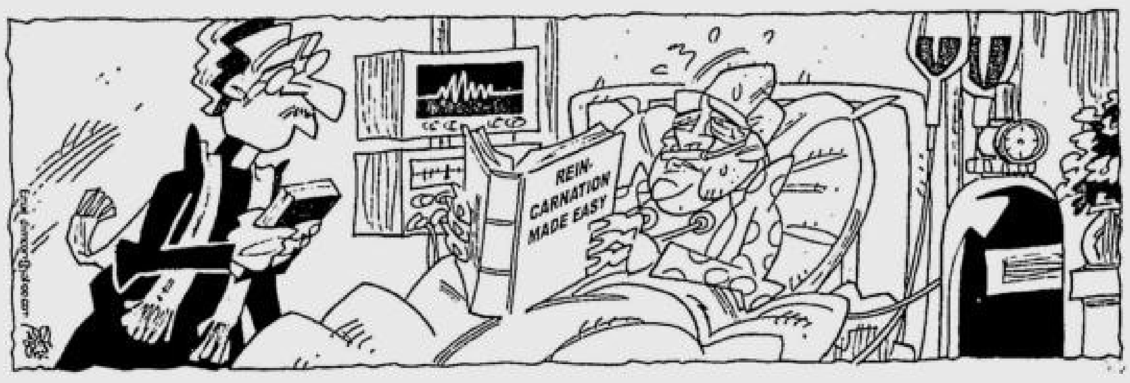
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Giving Thanks
...FOR KITTIES!!!
LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK
...FOR BREATH-FRESHENING DOG BONES!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
11-23

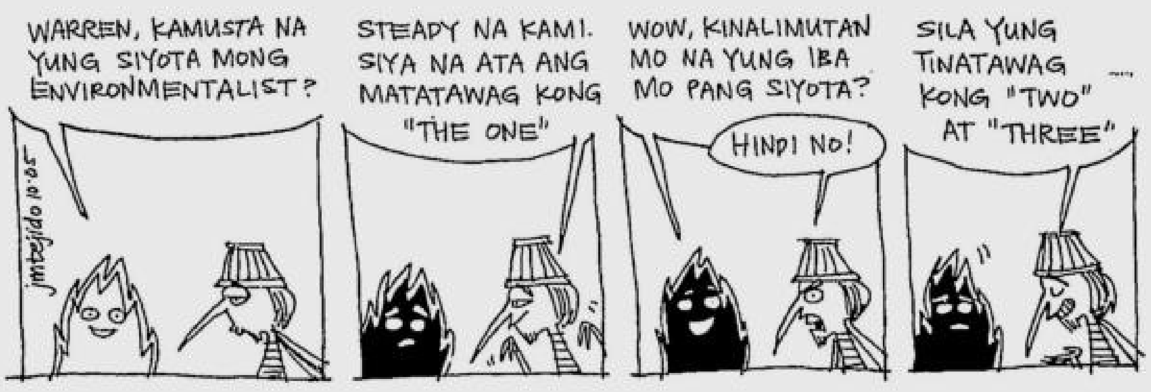
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


REIN-CARNATION MADE EASY

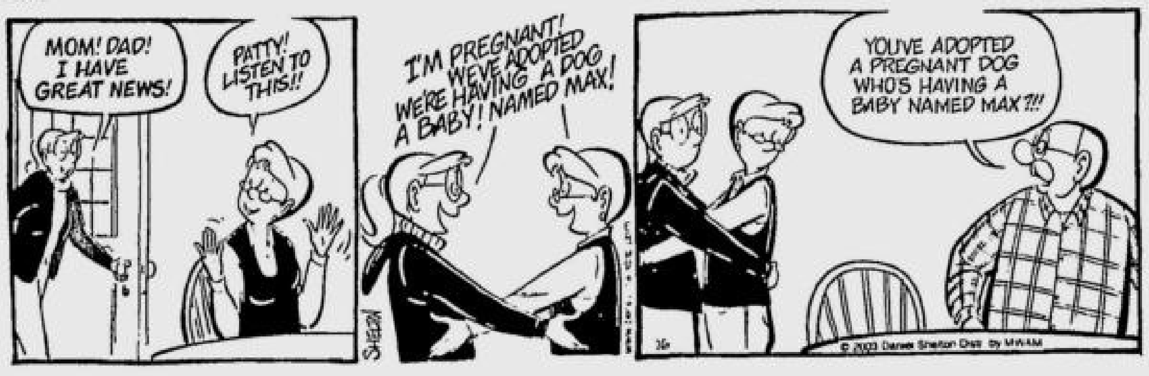
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WARREN, KAMUSTA NA YUNG SIYOTA MONG ENVIRONMENTALIST?
STEADY NA KAMI. SIYA NA ATA ANG MATATAWAG KONG "THE ONE"
WOW, KINALIMUTAN MO NA YUNG IBA MO PANG SIYOTA?
HINDI NO!
SILA YUNG TINATAWAG KONG "TWO" AT "THREE"
jmtejido 10.05

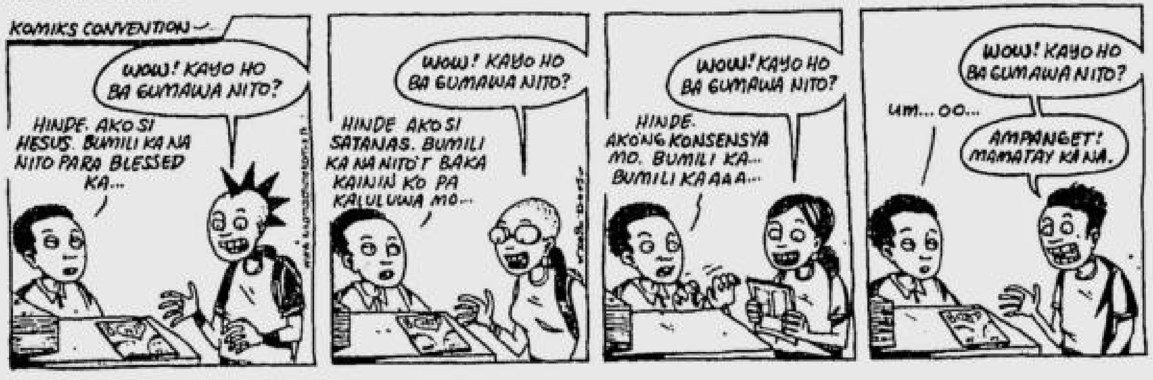
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOM! DAD! I HAVE GREAT NEWS!
PATTY! LISTEN TO THIS!!
I'M PREGNANT! WE'VE ADOPTED A DOG NAMED MAX!
WE'RE HAVING A BABY!
YOU'VE ADOPTED A PREGNANT DOG WHO'S HAVING A BABY NAMED MAX?!!

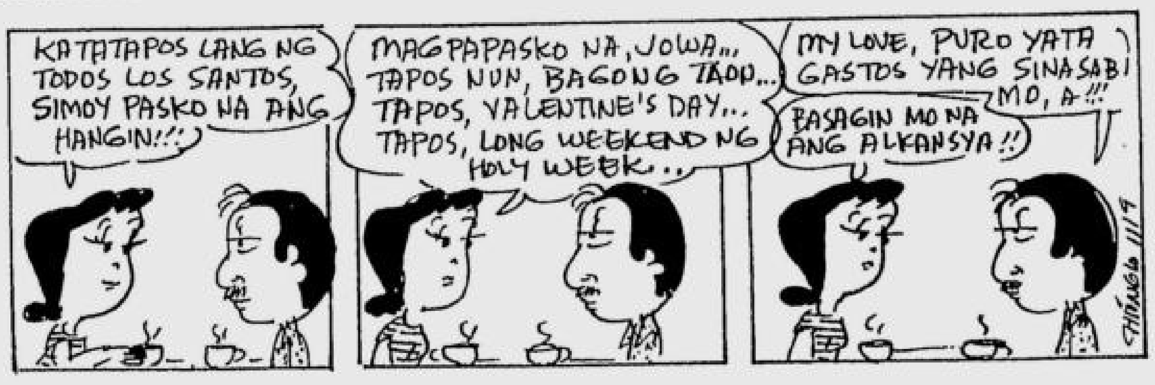
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KOMIKS CONVENTION
WOW! KAYO HO BA GUMAWA NITO?
HINDE. AKO SI HESUS. BUMILI KA NA NITO PARA BLESSED KA...
WOW! KAYO HO BA GUMAWA NITO?
HINDE AKO SI SATANAS. BUMILI KA NA NITO'T BAKA KAININ KO PA KALULUWA MO...
WOW! KAYO HO BA GUMAWA NITO?
HINDE. AKONG KONSENSYA MO. BUMILI KA... BUMILI KAAAA...
WOW! KAYO HO BA GUMAWA NITO?
UM... OO...
AMPANGET! MAMATAY KA NA.

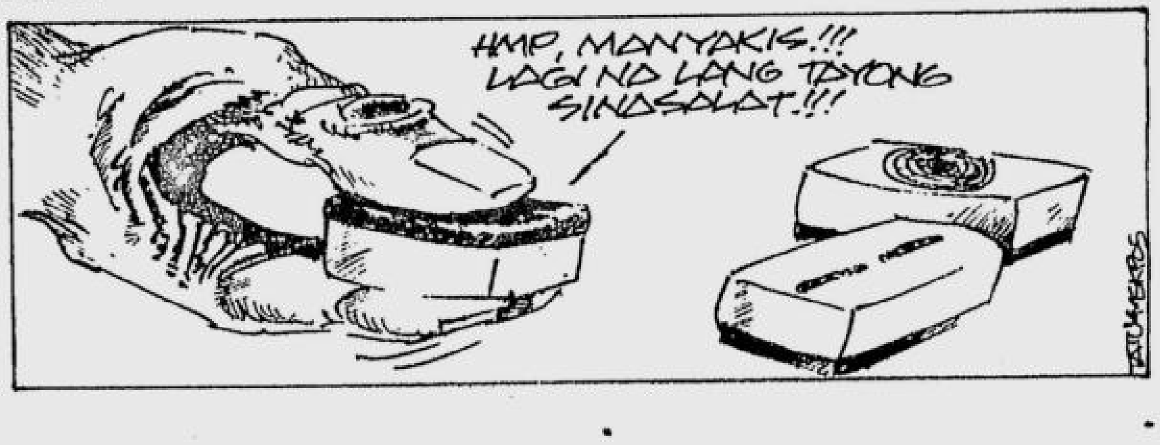
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KATATAPOS LANG NG TODOS LOS SANTOS, SIMOY PASKO NA ANG HANGIN!!!
MAGPAPASKO NA, JOWA... TAPOS NUN, BAGONG TAON... TAPOS, VALENTINE'S DAY... TAPOS, LONG WEEKEND NG HOLY WEEK...
MY LOVE, PURO YATA GASTOS YANG SINASABI MO, A!!!
BASAGIN MO NA ANG ALKANSYA!!
CHIONGLO 11/19

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HMP, MANYAKIS!!! LAGI NA LANG TAYONG SINASALAT!!!

Survey says ...

From page C1

takes that extra step, providing a comprehensive report on Filipino kids—their habits, lifestyle and opinions—through an annual study called Cartoon Network New Generations.

Cartoon Network started this study in 1998, covering most of the Asia-Pacific region and gathering data from children aged 7-18, with a starting sample size of 5,700 children in 12 countries. It was then called the New GenerAsians survey.

In 2001, Cartoon Network decided to concentrate fully on the individual behavior and lifestyle of children from countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Australia.

The first

The New Generations Philippines is actually the first localized survey designed for the Filipino youth. This time around, it covers the many aspects of the life of 7-14-year-old kids: media habits, technology, sports, shopping behavior, pocket money, and exercise, to name a few.

Coming from highly urbanized areas like Metro Manila, Davao and Cebu, the survey involves 1,000 kids and their parents. Majority of those surveyed (at least 65 percent) comes from class D.

The findings? Kids today are technologically adept, professional television surfers, and yet fit and healthy, in spite of this.

In this age of technological advancement, when even 5-year-old children have their own cell phones, the kids of this generation seem to be not only skilled texters, as may be expected of residents of the texting capital of the world, but are also techies-in-training.

Not surprisingly, the survey reveals that nine out of 10 children live in homes with mobile phones, while 35 percent have landlines in their residence.

Still No. 1

According to this year's results, Cartoon Network—home to Johnny Bravo, Powerpuff Girls, and Dexter's Laboratory—remains the top children's network.

For leisure, watching TV is the number one past-time of children, with 99 percent of respondents spending a typical weekday glued to the screen.

Majority of parents take this opportunity to bond with their kids. Some 95 percent of parents surveyed watch television with their kids, and 82 percent watch with their children every day. Not surprisingly, eating at home with the parents ranks No. 2 among the activities for a typical weekday schedule.

But how healthy are the technology savvy Filipino children? Has the fondness for TV turned them into the stereotypical couch potato—fat and lazy and slow to move?

That does not seem to be the case with Filipino children. Some 82 percent of parents claim their kids are active in sports and play outdoors; half of them even doing it on a daily basis.

And, as to be expected, basketball remains their favcrite sport and Michael Jordan is their fave sports star.

E-mail the author at prancing_hipp0@yahoo.com

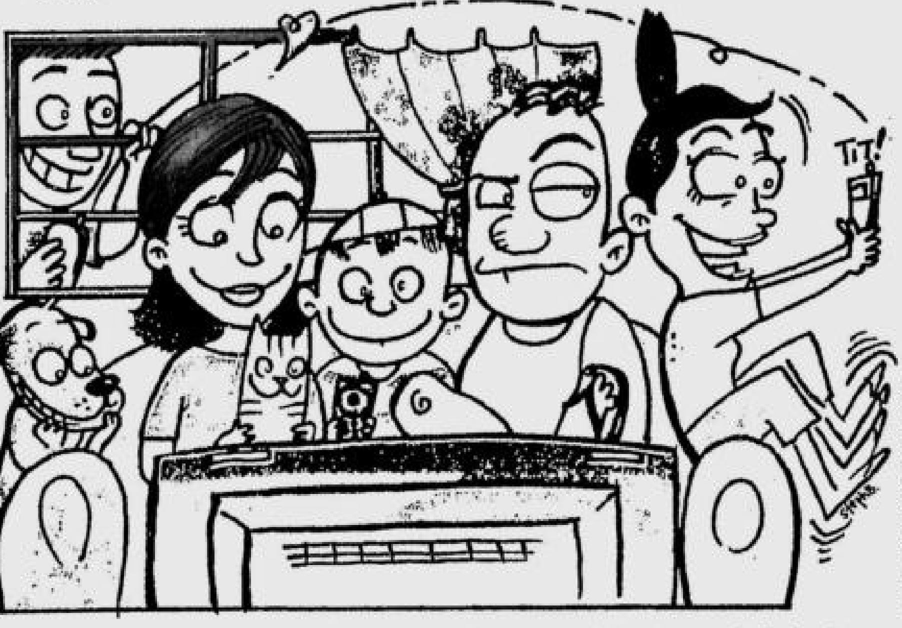


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Caring About Incontinence

Incontinence is a subject that many find difficult to absorb. Simply put, it is the accidental loss of urine or feces. But for people experiencing incontinence and their caregivers, there is nothing simple about it. The embarrassment caused by urine leakage makes it hard to lead normal lives. It is therefore important for caregivers to know how to care for their loved ones experiencing incontinence.

For Filipinos, giving care, especially for the elderly, is second nature. However, in cases involving incontinence, caregivers have to go the extra mile in helping sufferers deal with this touchy subject.

First, we have to understand that though more common in old people, incontinence can happen to anyone. In a survey conducted by the Asia Pacific Continence Advisory Board in 1998, approximately 15% of Filipinos had experienced an episode of urinary incontinence in their life. It is also important to know that incontinence is not a disease, but rather a symptom of an underlying disease or condition.

There are several factors that can cause urinary incontinence; some factors are relatively simple and temporary while others are more involved and long-term. Urinary tract infections, vaginal infection or irritation, severe constipation, and certain medicines can cause temporary bladder control problems. Once these are treated, the incontinence problem is also solved.

However, there are factors that can cause long-term incontinence such as weak or overactive bladder muscles, an enlarged prostate, disorders of consciousness or cognitive ability such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease and nerve damage such as multiple sclerosis.

The severity of the problem is also varied. Some experience minor leakage while others get more frequent wetness. But no matter how grave the condition is, it is essential for caregivers to help patients deal with their condition in the best way possible.

Second, it is wise to inform a doctor when problems are noticed. Give the appropriate and applicable information related to your love one's condition. Keeping a voiding diary to document the signs and patterns of voids would help the doctor determine the cause of the problem. This will be used to identify the appropriate treatment, depending on what's causing the problem and the type of incontinence.

Third, place yourself in your loved one's situation. Try to understand how he or she feels. Try not to be impatient even in the most testing of situations. Keep in mind that incontinence is embarrassing for the care recipient. Personal hygiene has always been a touchy subject and when someone else takes care of it, it is a challenge to the recipient's integrity.

Lastly, if the incontinence condition is long-term, using absorbent pads is always an option. Selecting the right products will facilitate hygiene care routines both for the user and the caregiver. Be selective. Aim for quality and dignity. There is no reason to accept poorly performing products that affect the quality of life for both the caregivers and their loved ones.

TENA's newest innovation is a testament to this pursuit. The revolutionary Instant Dry Layer absorbs wetness 60% quicker than other pads while its one-way valve locks wetness in at the bottom core, thus giving users unparalleled wetness absorption. The new Instant Dry Layer can be found in TENA Plus (Daytime) and TENA Maxi (Overnight) products.

With 40 years of experience under its belt, TENA is just the right partner when it comes to incontinence care. No wonder it's the no. 1 brand of incontinence care products in the Philippines and the world.

Now isn't that something worth absorbing? For more on incontinence care management, visit www.tena.com.ph

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Name of User: ________ Sex: ____ Birth Date: __ __ __
First Name M.I. Last Name M D Y
Please send my free TENA sample to:
Address: ________
____
________ Zip Code: ________
Tel. No.: ________
E-mail Address: ________
Name of Respondent: ________
First Name M.I. Last Name
Relation to User: ☐ Relative ☐ Professional Caregiver

Please send me a sample pack of:
☐ TENA Plus, Medium (Daytime Care)
☐ TENA Maxi, Medium (Overnight Care)

We value your privacy. Rest assured we keep all data in this coupon confidential.

PDI 11.23.05

PANIC pals Pepper and Alessandra Tinio

GORGE groupies Angie Haeger and May Reyes

ROCK chicks Kat Abad and Manchu Mantecon

INDIE bootleg DJ Chi Castañeda at restaurant Zen

SHOWER duo Chukrie Prieto and Romina Gonzalez

BRIDAL belles Geni Psinakis and Crickette Tantoco

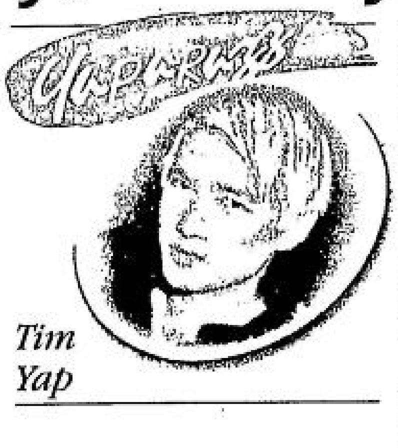
I DO, DADDY. Kat with dad Rico Tantoco

"BALAE'S" best. Peachy Lobregat and Nena Tantoco

U COMPLETE ME. Kat Tantoco and Paolo Lobregat

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Ready for reality, ready for the world



Tim Yap

LAST WEEK THE NATION faced two of its most favorite bedfellows. On one hand we witnessed reality show rock stars **MiG Ayesa** and **Constantine** doing a vocal back to back, serenading both Manila and Cebuano fans. On the other, we had the Advertising Congress, which paid tribute to the best in the industry and posed the question, "Are we ready for the world?"

After trying the "tipsying-ly" (a must-try-to-believe) yummy smoothies at Fuzion Café in Greenbelt, my first pit stop took me to Conway's (okay, put that eyebrow down) at the Makati Shang to catch MiG belt it out onstage.

Like all rock stars, MiG had his fair share of groupies, gorgeous girls who were there to support their favorite cousin. On the other side of the bar was Constantine, smoking a cigarette with his bodyguards and looking quite mysterious. While I snapped away, so did the girls (to the amazement of their expat escorts).

Later on, their paths crossed, they shook hands, exchanged pleasantries and went on to hang out with their respective groups. MiG even showed me a photo in his camera of him and Constantine together on the plane, with the happy crew of Philippine Airlines excited to welcome them both.

Do Panic

I moved to nearby Zen since it was a Tuesday, which meant it was "Panic" night. Nope, nightlife hasn't gone haywire (first Conway's, then Zen, on a Tuesday night at that!), but maybe this is what the kids who flock to Panic want to happen.

Back from London, **Alessandra Tinio** leads this danceteria of not-so-usual electro-garage scene kids who are sick of the usual fare at the usual clubs. Eyeliner, bad hair, bad clothes were staples on this uniquely twisted Tuesday night at Zen. Of course, I used the word bad in a good context there, baby. "Be there or be square," as Alessandra's self-made punk-looking Panic posters swear.

It is interesting to note the slow but sure rise of the "clash" scene in the city. **Ronald Pasion** used to do his digs in the DoMa (downtown Makati—meaning Pasong Tamo and other non-central Makati spots) while designer **Gian Romano** and artist **Kiko Escora** still hold theirs every Thursday at MDC or Manila DJ Club at The Fort, where they empower hipsters to literally play whatever they feel like.

Everyone lets their hair down at these parties, and the energy is quite invigorating. When you get on the dance floor, it's as if there's a surge of "Extra Joss meets electro clash" going around, but it's all just an infectious natural high, which, these days, is still the best one we can ever get. Wink.

PaoKat shower

The next day I went to an event that made me realize a lot of boys and girls are about to cry this season.

Two extremely gorgeous people are about to tie the knot and had their bridal shower to prove it. **Paolo Lobregat** and **Kat Tantoco** are two of the scene's hottest—and they just look too yummy together. Proof was their Rustan's U summer collection billboards along Edsa that made that summer even hotter.

The shower was held in the pleasantly chilly afternoon at the Rustan's Christmas decoration floor, which totally boosted my overly eager Christmas spirit even more. Those Lucite Christmas chandeliers that lined every escalator just added the right glitz to the season. And there were other wonderful offerings at their Christmas floor—the funkiest trees and trimmings this side of town! They even had a black Christmas tree, gift tables with red sandals on the tip of its legs and another tree that was adorned with trimmings inspired by that girl Carrie Bradshaw. I think it's the most creatively adorned Christmas .section in this corner of the world. Do your shopping now to avoid the rush. November is about to end. Really.

Back to PaoKat, I arrived in time to judge (along with Metro Weddings editor **Romina Urra-Gonzalez** and Mati's **Geni Psinakis**) the *balae* contest, where the friends of the mothers-in-law stretched their creativity and turned PaoKat's moms into mannequins donning festive crepe paper creations. I called it a tie because they both looked like **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** after their makeovers. Bravo!

"These are exciting times of endings, beginnings and more," I said to Romina. A young couple getting marred signifies their willingness to take their relationship to another level. An industry welcoming world-class talent shows its readiness for global acceptance. A scene ripe with variety reflects openness to different tastes and cultures, injecting it with much needed excitement.

Think global

On a recent trip, I met these Japanese designer dudes who had interpreters in tow. We had a great conversation despite them not knowing how to speak English. They told me in Nihongo, "Judge your work based not on what your local peers think, but on what your global peers think of it." We Pinoys always have a tendency to just care about what our immediate circle would say, somehow forgetting that there is a huge world out there ready for us and what we have to offer.

We know that we have the talent, passion, determination and whatever else it takes to go global. We may not be as rich but we are wealthy in other respects. It's all about channeling our energies into a common goal.

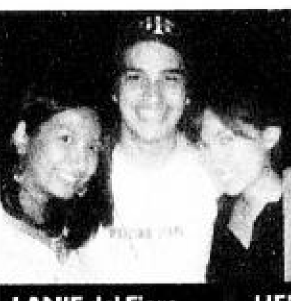
So get ready, world. Here we are!

ALL in the family with Boy, Tina and Mary Ann Tinio

SHOP-WISDOM. Donnie Tantoco

PANIC pair Nino Mendoza and Aimee Marcos

EXTRA JOLT. Joanna Mendoza and Frank David



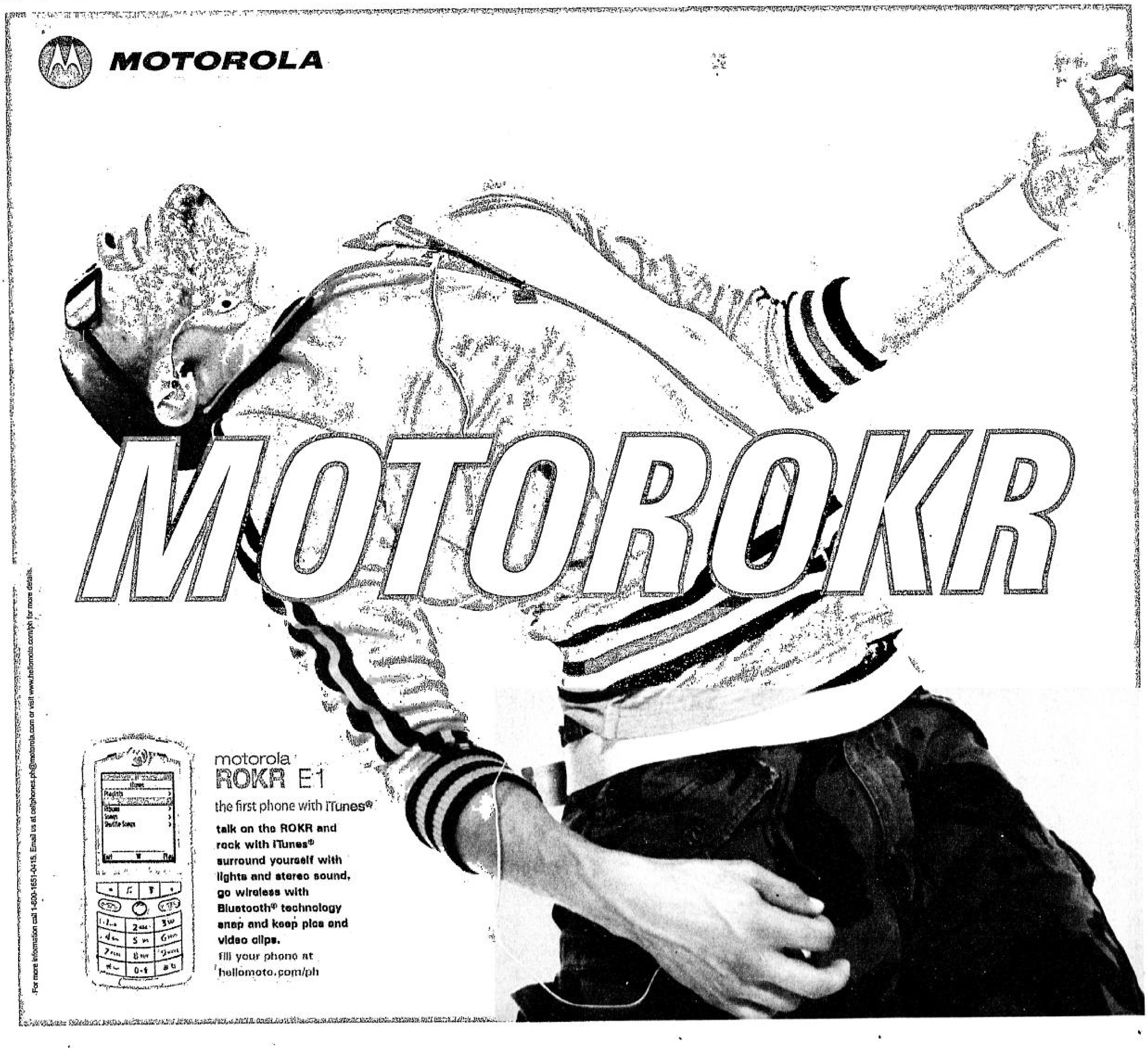
LANIE del Fiero, Luigi Guerrero and Jade Maravillas

HE'S A MiG fan, too. Matt Hadfield

WONDER boy Mong Alcaraz at Panic

ERWIN of Ex-President's Combo

ROCK YOU! Yaparazzi with Cons and MiG



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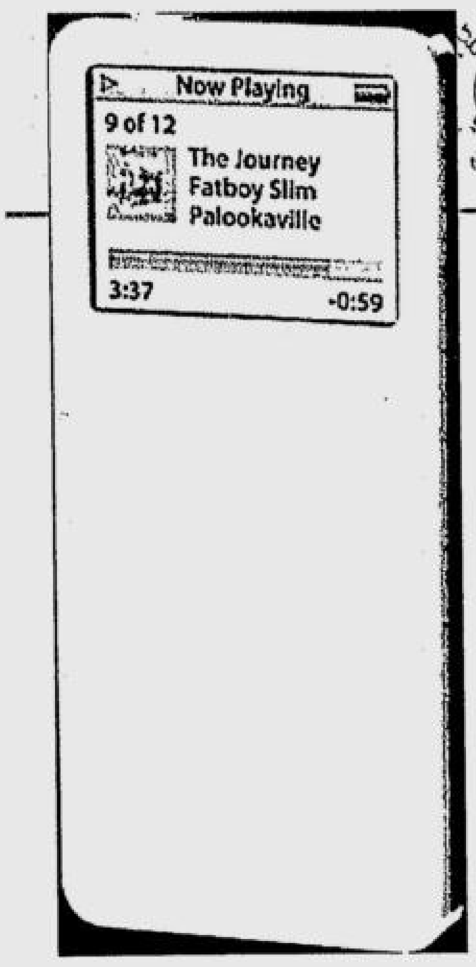

IPOD NANO

An icon light as a feather, thin as a cracker

By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Contributor

MOST OF YOU WILL agree with me that reviewing the iPod Nano is a most fruitless affair, primarily because no matter what I say, people will still want to have one.

I can query an iPod owner about a recent product recall, and be quickly shot down by a statement that it has been resolved. I can talk

IPOD/D2

Win an iPod Nano!

BECAUSE IT'S 2BU!'S BIRTHDAY SEASON and because we wouldn't be here without you, this week, 2bU! and Digital Exchange will be giving away an iPod Nano to the one person who deserves it the most.

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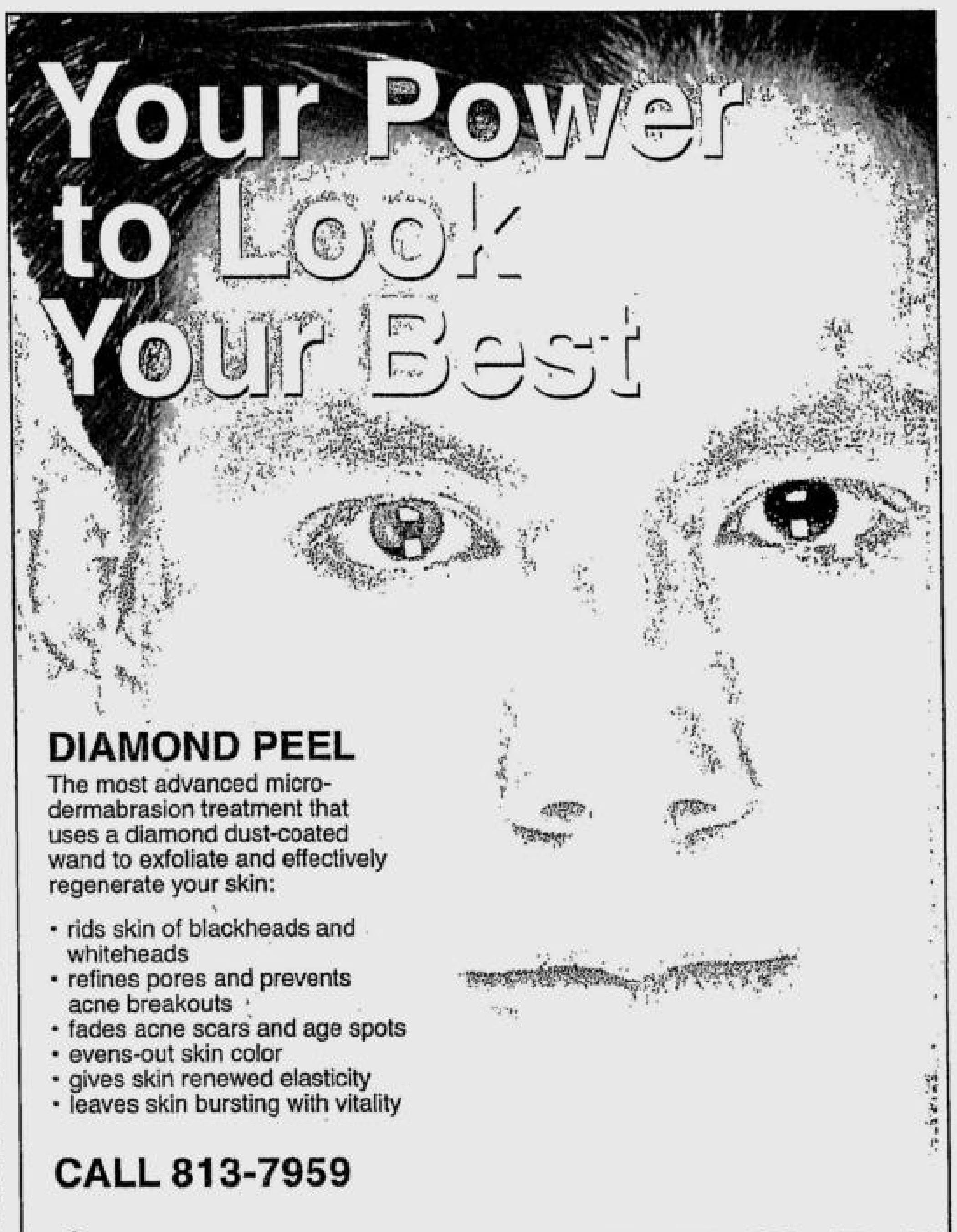
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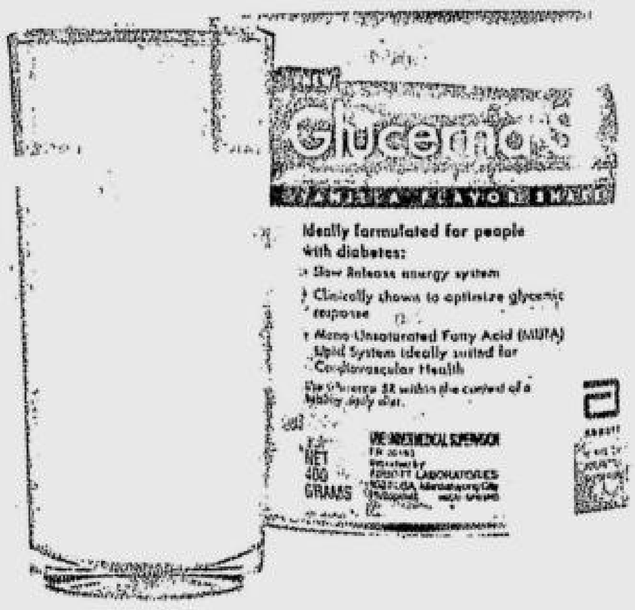

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Mandaluyong City
Nov. 23-29, 2005

Nov. 24 (Thursday)
1 pm : **Say I Do** *(Canada/Philippines)* **& Ynang Bayan** *(Philippines)*
4 pm : **Five Feminist Minutes** *(Canada)*
7 pm : **A Little Color** *(Switzerland)*
9:30 pm : **Phir Milenge** *(India)*

Nov. 25 (Friday, Filipino Day!)
1 pm : **Ang Tanging Ina**
4 pm : **Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo**
7 pm : **Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?**
9:30 pm : **Moral**

Nov. 26 (Saturday)
1 pm : **She Says: Women in News** *(US)*
4 pm : **A Little Color** *(Switzerland)*
7 pm : **Te Doy Mis Ojos** *(Spain)*
9:30 pm : **The Road Home** *(China)*

Nov 27 (Sunday)
1 pm : **Five Feminist Minutes** *(Canada)*
4 pm : **Say I Do** *(Canada/Philippines)* **& Ynang Bayan** *(Philippines)*
7 pm : **Baran** *(Iran)*
9:30 pm : **Iron Jawed Angels** *(US) (HBO)*

Nov 28 (Monday)
1 pm : **Dahil Mahal Kita** *(Philippines)*
4 pm : **Manthan** *(India)*
7 pm : **Frida** *(Mexico)*
9:30 pm : **Anak** *(Philippines)*

Nov 29 (Tuesday)
1 pm : **Tumaini** *(Tanzania)*
4 pm : **Baran** *(Iran)*
7 pm : **The Road Home** *(China)*
9:30 pm : **She Says: Women in News** *(US)*

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An icon light as a feather, thin as a cracker

From page D1

about the benefits of hard disk-based mp3 players over flash-based ones and receive as many pros as cons. Bring up the fact that you'll need to buy a whole new slew of accessories as your previous iPod-related gadgets won't fit this one, and people will just shrug in acceptance. I can note how much like sheep we've become as we wait with baited breath and ready wallets for Steve Jobs' product launches and I'll be met with snarls and gnashing teeth reminiscent of reaction whenever I start comparing Macs to PCs.

Need I say it? The iPod is truly an icon. It is a device that has transcended what it really is: a simple music player that has become an essential must-own item not because of mere "features" (a microwave oven has "features") but just plainly because it is an iPod. It is as unfashionable to discuss its merits, or lack thereof, as it is not to have one. The need it fulfills transcends that of mere merits. It is an iPod, not just some trifling device. Therefore it is essential that we have one.

Faced with thus, as I slip on my preferred earphones (not the ones that came with it, as I hope to preserve that for its eventual winner—see related promo details), after downloading my music into it, adding a few pictures as well, then charging it for a few hours, I launch onto a day of commuting determined to see what the iPod Nano is all about. If not, at least, to entertain me with my music as I go along my day, then perhaps, at most, to make a believer out of me.

Choices

Now, 2 gigabytes are not a big deal in the world of mp3 players, where double that is the preferred norm. And so the challenge to me was to choose only those songs, videos and pictures that I truly appreciate.

The iTunes has always been a bit of a stretch to comprehend, but that goes for most music organizer software in my experience. Once you've figured it out, though, it's just a matter of checking what you want, pressing "Update iPod" and off you go.

My '80s and '90s collection took up much space, followed by some Frank Sinatra, Billy Holiday, Ella, Sarah, Dizzy and the old gang. Oh we've got to have some nice new R&B, of course, lots of OPM, some old alternative stuff, and whatever else new stuff I took from my 18-year-old nephew's music folders for variety.

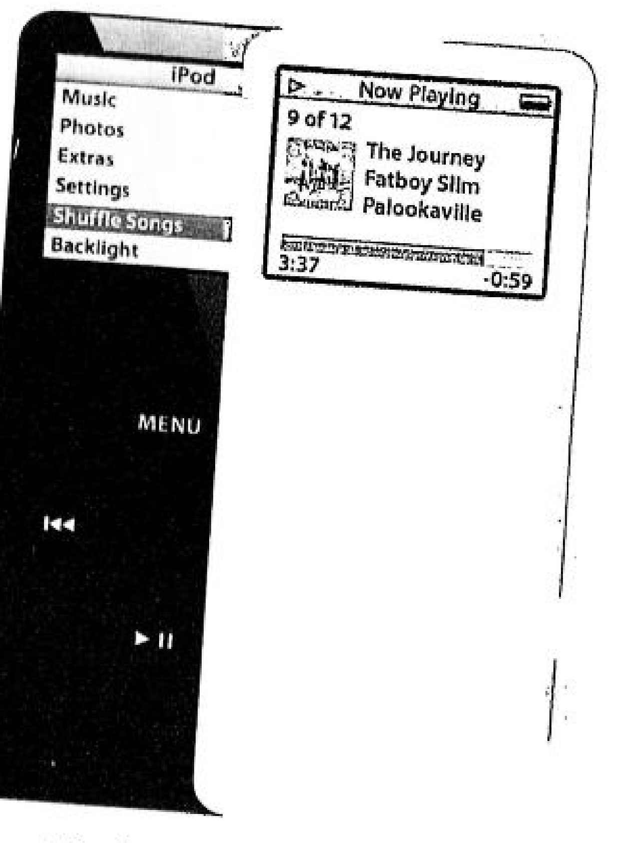
Size or lack of it

Whatever else you've read, seen or heard about the iPod Nano is nothing compared to when you're actually cradling it in the palm of your hand. For perspective, consider the weight of your average pair of old wraparound-your-head-type earphones. The Nano is probably heavier by only a few ounces. Heck, I'm probably wrong, it might actually be lighter. That's how hard it is to figure out its weight since it's so light. It's about as thin as a Skyflakes cracker, but narrower in width and about as tall. For more perspective, consider that you'll mostly be using the earphone plugged at it's bottom to help you pull it out of your pocket or bag. It's that light.

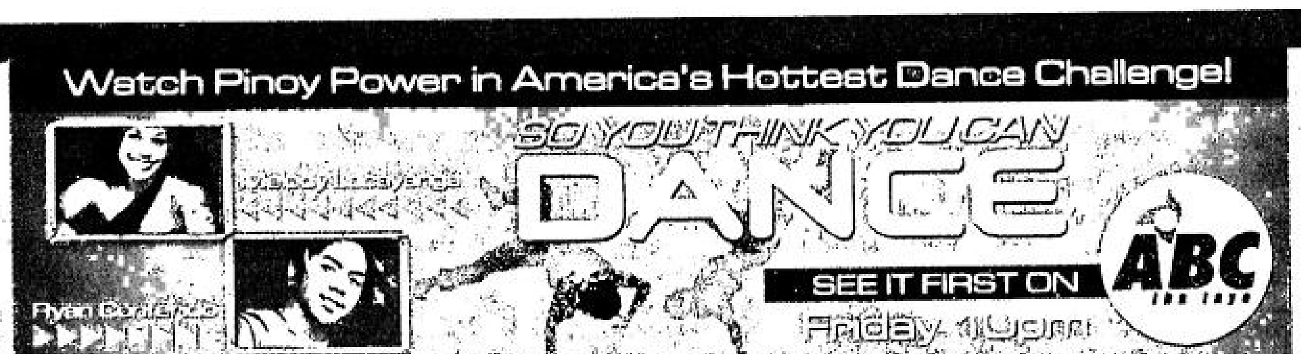
And then you start using it, and here's the part where we start to wonder and feel amazed. Not necessarily because of any terrific sound advancements the iPod may deliver—actually, it just delivers music pretty much as it finds them (mp3s ripped at 128kbps will always sound better than 64kbs, and the iPod will not produce miracles with badly ripped sound).

No, the wonderment starts when you start hearing your songs. You wonder about things like, when God was showering talent upon us, if Barbie Almabis was outside with her umbrella turned upside down. How does one develop the enlightenment to compose such intellectual songs as "My Hump" by the Black Eyed Peas? Such things as, will Rivermaya ever sing anything as heartbreaking as "Himala" again? How did the Eraserheads come out of nowhere, define a whole generation of young people with their music, then disappear as they did without a trace? Why did it take New Order this long to release a new album, and why do they sound the same? How is Blink182's sound going to change now they're getting older? Why is Craig David not a superstar? Why am I not married to Kylie?

Such thoughts dwell in one's head as the hours pass with iPod firmly planted in your ears. And this is quite appropriate for a review about the iPod. After all, what better way is there to talk about something that transcends what it really is—a mere music player—than by talking about how it transforms a simple everyday commute into a trip of wonder?



IPOD NANO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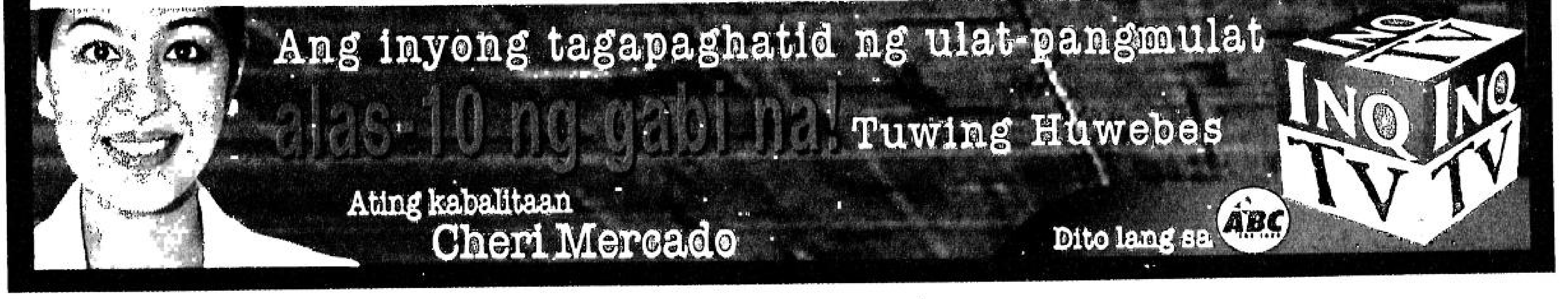
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Wednesday, November 23, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Rockstar: Inxs		Dokyu	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Yes Yes Show			Insider
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	The Amazing Race: Family Edition		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Cinema One		Remember Me, Mama				Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin				Sanib			Persona	Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin				Mga Munting Tinig	
Cinemax	Darkman II: The Return Of Durant			20 Million Miles To Earth			I'll Be Seeing You (5:45 PM)			Japanese Story (7:15 PM)				Tears Of The Sun				Dead Heat	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Thank God They Are Gone		Understanding		Wild Science		Speed Week		Fat Fiances		Hour China		The Mythbusters 3		Hyperspace With Sam Neil		Hour Asia	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Ultimate Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Skating Marshall's World Skating Chall.			LPGA Golf ADT Championship				Goals!	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/Snooker World Pool League '05		LPGA Golf ADT C'ship				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Commited	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works In Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romansa	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law II		Agency II		Cactus Kid			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO				Neil Simon's The Goodbye Girl			Vice Versa (5:45 PM)				A Simple Wish			Assassins				Innerspace (11:10PM)	
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EZ Shop		Global Family Series		Bayan Umawit (The Concert)				Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Hanging Out	The 70's House	Pop Inc.		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes		Everest, The Darkside		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Women Of K2		Taboo	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Kusada Kontra Kamen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes/ Naturally Sadie/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Viewer's Choice			1, 2, 3	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia		
PBO			Apoy Sa Iyong Kandungan				Hacienda				I Love You Sabado				Hindi Pahuhuli ng Buhay				Babae Sa Breakwater
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work	Sheperd's Voice	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video			
Solar Sports		China Master MD Finals		FIVB World Champ Cup Men's Event: Ita vs. Egy				Phil 9-Ball Open Day2				Sports Desk		WTA Japan Open '05					NBA Jam
Sports Plus				Big 12 College Football: Kansas St. @ Oklahoma						NBA Game Utah @ Seattle					NBA Game Houston @ Dallas				
Star Movies				Snow Dogs			Tuck Everlasting (5:45 PM)			Sola Man (7:15 PM)				Nature Unleashed: Fire			Saving Jessica Lynch		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill/The 2005 33rd Annual American Music Awards		Medical Investigation		The Practice		Friends	One Tree Hill/The 2005 33rd Annual American Music Awards
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race: Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Street kids invade Play Underground

KIDS enjoy their first shot at wall-climbing.

VOLUNTEER Mel Siytan fastens the harness.

STREET CHILDREN FROM Guadalupe, who are beneficiaries Childhope Asia programs, had a grand time recently at Play Underground at the Power Plant Mall of the Rockwell Center.

The kids spent the whole morning wall-climbing with the help of the Play Underground staff, who served as volunteers for the day.

The street children were brought to the mallIt by members of the Breakfast Club, a volunteer group under the wings of Hands On Manila.

Breakfast Club was among five volunteer groups recognized by the HSBC Faces of Volunteerism program in last month's Volunteer in Person (VIP) Day at Rockwell Loft in Makati City.

The HSBC Faces of Volunteerism program aims to encourage volunteers to come up with innovative ways and means to help others.

Members of Breakfast Club spend Saturday mornings sharing meals, games and other activities with street children from Guadalupe and the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

On hand to help were Play Underground's Joy Saberon, Buddy Advincula and Retchie Ramos.

To volunteer, call Hands On Manila at 8437044 and 8435231 or e-mail handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph and homla@info.com.ph.

HANDS on Manila "Breakfast Club" group at Rockwell wall climbing center tour

PHOTOS BY BOY CABRIDO

Young 'eco-minds' hold forum

By Jeffrey Azor-Osoc
2bU! Intern

TWENTY-SEVEN YOUNG STUDENTS from Asia-Pacific countries attended the Eco-Minds Asia-Pacific Youth Forum 2005 organized by Bayer and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Held in cooperation with the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), the meeting aimed to help increase awareness of environmental problems and arrest the depletion of natural resources.

Attending the first Eco-Minds forum were students from Australia, China, Indonesia, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The event featured a panel of lecturers and other guests from different countries. An exhibit was mounted at the Gallery of the Hotel Inter-Continental Grand Ballroom.

Dr. Udo Oels, a member of the Bayer AG Board of Management, welcomed the delegates, who wore their national costumes, and other guests.

Environment Sec. Michael Defensor introduced President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who spoke on the multidimensional approach to sustainability.

Professor Jeffrey Sach, director of the UN Millennium Project on the environmental challenges of the UN Millennium Development Goals, conducted a video conference.

Other speakers were UNEP representative Elisabeth Guilbaud-Cox; former Socio-Economic Planning secretary, now director of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development, Dr. Cielito Habito; and professor W. Roy Jackson, founding director of the Centre for Green Chemistry in Monash University, Australia.

The event marked the debut of "Everybody's Earth," an original musical composition by the Bayer Young Environmental Envoys of the Philippines. Winners in the International Children's Painting Competition for the Environment were also displayed.

OUR very own participants for the youth forum

INTERNATIONAL delegates in their national costumes

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Celeste Tan	Binondo, Manila
Claudine T. Delatorre	Laguna
Finn Robert Sundstrom	Las Pinas
Ignacio Golez	Quezon City
Liezlyn Geron	Cebu
Louiza Mae Punsalan	Cavite
Ma. Mayella Javier	Las Pinas
Perluo Soldor	Tondo, Manila
Romano Obispo	Sta. Mesa, Manila

Odyssey CD

Name	Address
Abigail Pulido	Cavite
Agnes Tolentino	Marikina
Alex Escoto	Cavite
Algemol M. Bato	Caloocan
Alma V. Legaspi	Quezon City
Amador Racpan	Paco, Manila
Amelia F Tello	Baguio
Angela Alcantara	Pasig
Anna Belinda F. Apayart	Davao
Anna Margarita D. Iborrola	Quezon City
Anna Roseatte Nicolas	Tondo, Manila
Aretha L. Matnog	Caloocan
Ariel A Bernardo	Cavite
Audielyn Avecilla	Sampaloc, Manila
Baby Laura Aguilar	Caloocan City
Benedicto Felipe A. Natividad	Rizal
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Bernadette Acha	Caloocan
Bernadette M. Tiangco	Navotas
Blas Becano	Pangasinan
Camille Dyan Ambion	Tagaytay
Cecile M. Cruz	Cavite
Celeste U Abling	Bulacan
Cheryl Triguero	Quezon City
Chester T. Pablo	Quezon City
Chona Isabelo	Mandaue, Cebu
Chris Jancel	Makati
Christy B. Clamonte	Misamis Oriental
Crescencio R. Beltran III	Naga
Cristina L. Que	Quezon City
Danette Sayo	Quezon City
Danielle Lingat	Paranaque
Danilo Lao	Davao
Dennis F Mapalo	Zambales
Dulce Batonsra	Paranaque
Eda P. Araneta	Pasig
Erene Go	San Miguel, Manila
Emmanuel Abayon	Pampanga
Enzo Dino C. Victoriano	Cavite
Filamer Montes	Cavite
Flor Crisol	Las Pinas
Gabriel D. Coronel	Sta. Cruz, Manila
Giancarlo Catma	Sampaloc, Manila
Gina Concordia	Las Pinas
Glocy S.D. Chua	Marikina
Henry B. Casaul	Makati
Irene M Dela Cruz	Cavite
Irine M. Pinera	Laoag
Israel Rosano	Pangasinan
Jacqueline Mumar	Tondo, Manila
Jasmin Jose	Quezon City
Jed Rivera	Bacolod
Jennifer Dy	Quezon City
Jennifer Sarmiento	Paranaque
Joan P. De Asis	Davao
Jonathan N. Bautista	Malate, Manila
Josefina B. Pantonilo	Quezon City
Josephine M. Pena	Laguna
Katherine Ross Pilpina	Makati
Khristine Joy Leocadio	Tondo, Manila
Laarni Escolo	Cavite
Laila Sason	Laguna
Leonila D. Gonzales	Laguna
Lilibeth A. Cuevas	Cavite
Lilibeth Berzaquit	San Juan
Lourdes Adao	Las Pinas
Lourdes D. Donato	Quezon City
Louise Anne Yongco	Quezon City
Lyle Villareal	Antipolo
Ma. Cristina C. Manuel	Angeles
Margaret Uy	Recto, Manila
Mary Nor Lopez	Navotas
Marysse Efiane C. Magat	Cavite
Maureen C Villanueva	Nueva Ecija
Michael Lara	Quezon City
Michael T. Manio	Angeles
Miriam G. Perilla	Pampanga
Mischel Duran	Batangas
Monina Charisma S. Moleta	Muntinlupa
Muriel Marable	Quezon City
Noel C. Escober	San Juan
Olive Acollador	Cagayan de Oro
Pacsela Jalandoni	Negros Occidental
Peter Hud Maceda	Davao
Raymond Castro	Mandaluyong
Rey N. Valencia	Mandaluyong
Rita R. Beltran	Legazpi
Roberto Macaalay	Pangasinan
Rosalie Descanzo	Makati
Rosvida Alfonso	Nueva Ecija
Ruby Qurseo	Cebu
Sebastian p Jaucian	Mandaluyong
Sheila I. Veralto	Cavite
Shirley Ann Besid	Pasig
Sofia Buenconsejo	Quezon City
Thorek Randolf C. Da Castro	Tondo, Manila
Trinidad C. Elizan	Naga

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Name	Address
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Erlinda B Dilao	Cavite
Jeffrey Calimutan	Rizal
Jennifer Serafin	Pasig
Josephus T. Grefalda	Bulacan
Kate Gerza	Quezon City
Marita Marcelino	Quezon City
Paula Jean C. Sia	Quezon City
Pedro C. Lopez III	Bulacan

Odyssey CD

Name	Address
Alice Dychangco	Quezon City
Altair Martinez	Bulacan
Angeline Esperanza David	Cavite
Anita L. Ignacio	Pasig
Anna Liza Melon	Tondo, Manila
Arnel Lozano	Pasay
Arnold P. Deca	Quezon City
Arnestine De Belen	Malate, Manila
Benedicto C. Pamarang	Pangasinan
Bernice Ong	Pasig
Berylyn B. Catibog	Batangas
Carey C. Chan	Quezon City
Catherine Joy de Leon	Las Pinas
Celeste Barrera	Pateros, Manila
Cherry Flaminiano	Tarlac
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Eleanor Vergara	Pampanga
Emeleen Iglane	Tondo, Manila
Emelyn Jose	Pasay
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Flora Salalila	Angeles
Florinda B. Uy	Batangas
Franklin Sy	Mandaluyong
Geraldine Ho	Binondo, Manila
Grace P. Santos	Marikina
Herbert Ting	Bacood, Manila
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Jan Carlo	Cagayan de Oro
January Anne Narciso	Quezon City
Joan Lascia	Camarines Sur
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Jessica D. Robles	Malabon
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Kathleen Servanda	Rizal
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Marietta Romero	Pasig
Marilyn Trabal	Pasig
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Mary Grace D. Hilario	Cavite
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Myla Jerilla	Valenzuela
Nelson Carlas	Sampaloc, Manila
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Richard Hao	Binondo, Manila
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Thelma Garcia	Pampanga
Venus Bulatao	Rizal
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Winna Enrile-Javellana	Quezon City
Zeta Z. Junio	Batangas

Winners will be notified via text message.

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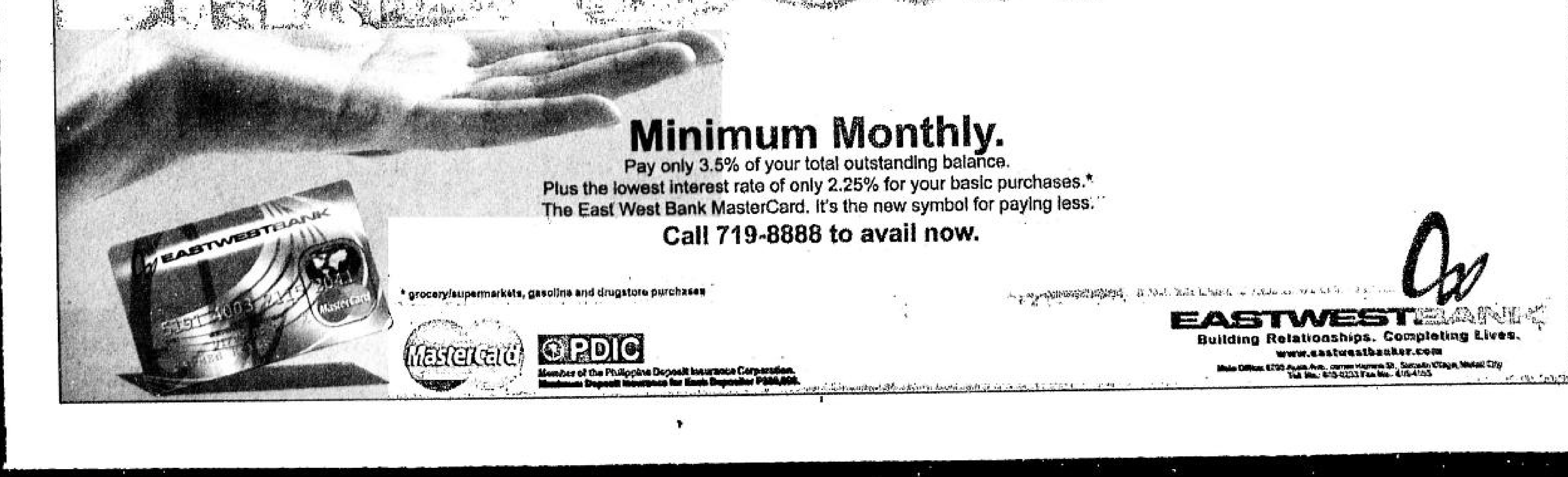

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De La Salle University to honor poet/fictionist Cirilo F. Bautista

THE DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE and the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center of De la Salle University-Manila will pay tribute to Cirilo F. Bautista on Nov. 24, 5:30 p.m., at DLSU's Marilen Gaerlan Conservatory.

Bautista is one of the most distinguished figures in Philippine literature. He is a poet, fictionist, essayist, critic, theorist, columnist and academic.

He has written 17 books, including: "The Cave and Other Poems" (1968), "Charts" (1973), "Sugat ng Salita" (1986), "Stories" (1990), "Breaking Signs: Lectures on Literature and Semiotics" (1990), "Boneyard Breaking: New Collected Poems" (1992), "Kirot ng Kataga" (1995), "Words and Battlefields: A Theoria on the Poem" (1998), "The Trilogy of Saint Lazarus" (2001, comprising "The Archipelago", 1970, "Telex Moon," 1981, and "Sunlight on Broken Stones," 1999), "Bullets and Roses: The Poetry of Amado V. Hernandez" (2003), and "Galaw ng Asoge" (2004).

He is a recipient of many awards and fellowships, including: the Palanca Hall of Fame Award, Gawad Manuel L. Quezon, the UMPIL's Gawad Balagtas, three National Book Awards, Knight Commander of Rizal, Centennial Literary Award, and Parangal Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan and Gawad Gatpuno Antonio Villegas given by the City of Manila.

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Allue "My First..." Teen Cosmetic and Personal Care is a product of HBC, the Home of Beauty Exclusives which caters to pre-teen and teenage girls. The products are gentle, with no harsh effects on young skin. They come in exciting and natural colors and scents, but are easy on the budget.

The Allue Limited Edition Autograph Book is free at all HBC stores for a minimum purchase of P125 of any Allue "My First..." teen Cosmetic and Personal Care.

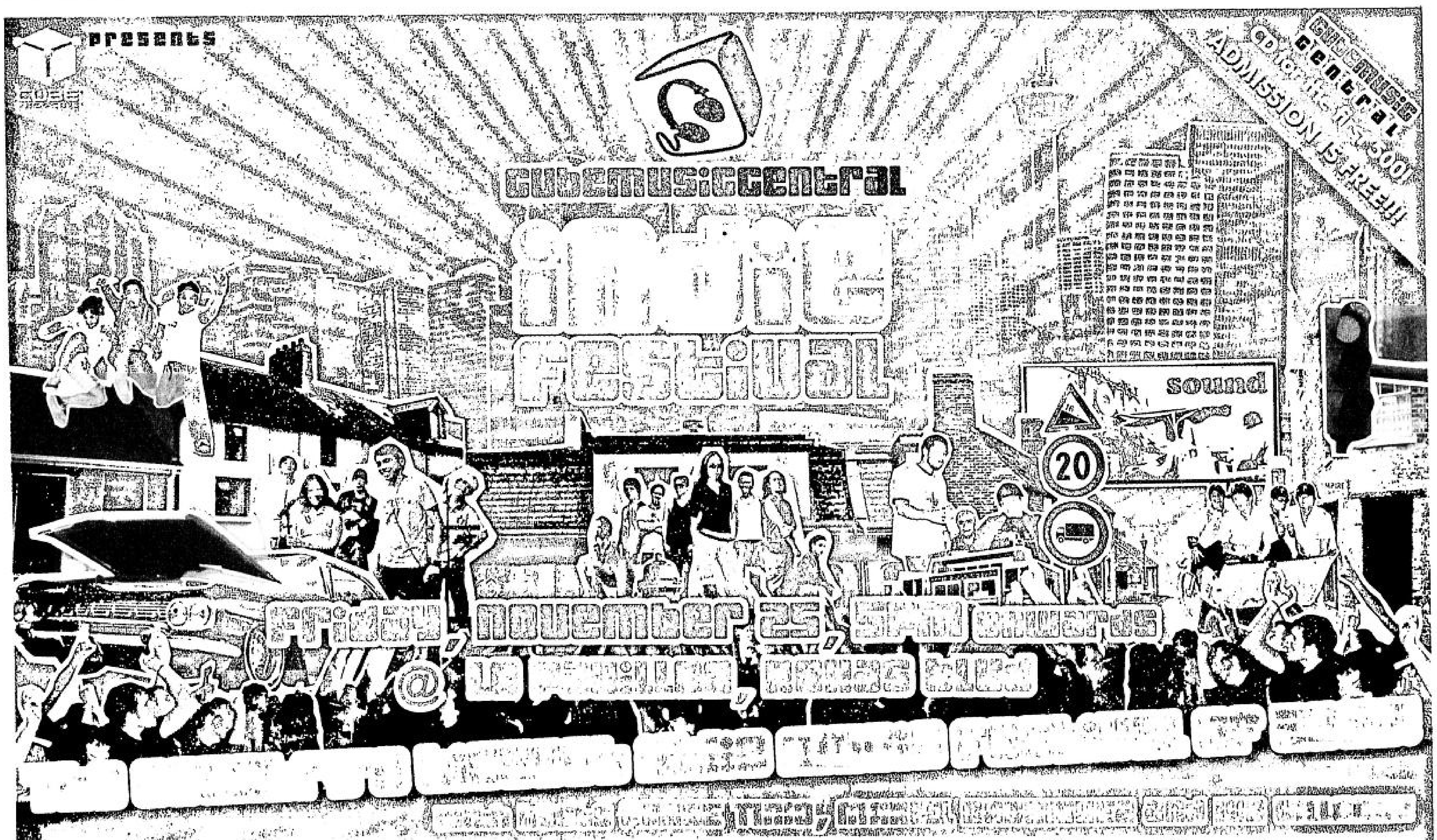
HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives has over 150 branches in Luzon, including the HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, G/F HBC Corporate Center, 548 Mindanao Avenue corner Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City. New branches opened in Robinsons Cebu, KCC Mall General Santos, Ever Commonwealth and Davao. Call 9845555 loc. 288, or text 0918-9215520. You may also visit www.hbc.com.ph.

UP Concert Chorus holds Christmas show

EXPERIENCE THE TRUE MEANING OF the holidays with the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus' season feature, "Reason for the Season," 7 p.m., Nov. 29, at the Philamlife Auditorium, United Nations Avenue, Manila.

The show will feature songs from Ryan Cayabyab's St. Michael's Mass and "Gloria" by Vivaldi, as well as other popular Christmas songs.

Tickets for the one-night concert, which is also part of the preparation for the choral group's 2006 world tour, are available at P200 each. For inquiries, call or text 0917-8175180 or 0917-7911484.



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SKIRTING the issue. Green skirt, P1,795

The yin and yang of fashion

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Roger Carpio

FASHION FREAKS

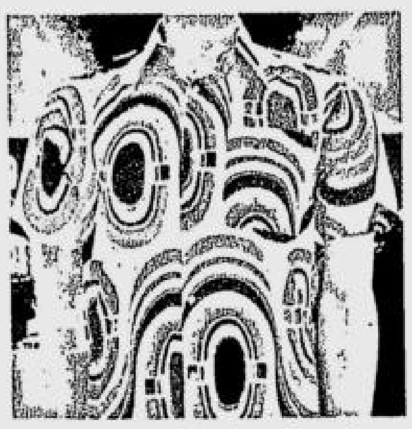
MANILA REALLY IS turning into mall city. With thousands of shops waiting for you (and your wallet), how do you know which ones are worth your time?

The Fashion Freaks are here to help you, of course. We will continue to highlight stores, brands and designers that deserve a visit or two (or 10).

This week's hot store, Details Trading, is a treat not just for girls but for guys, too. With a wide selection of fashion pieces that wouldn't drain your bank account, we're pretty sure this store will soon become part of your must-visit list.

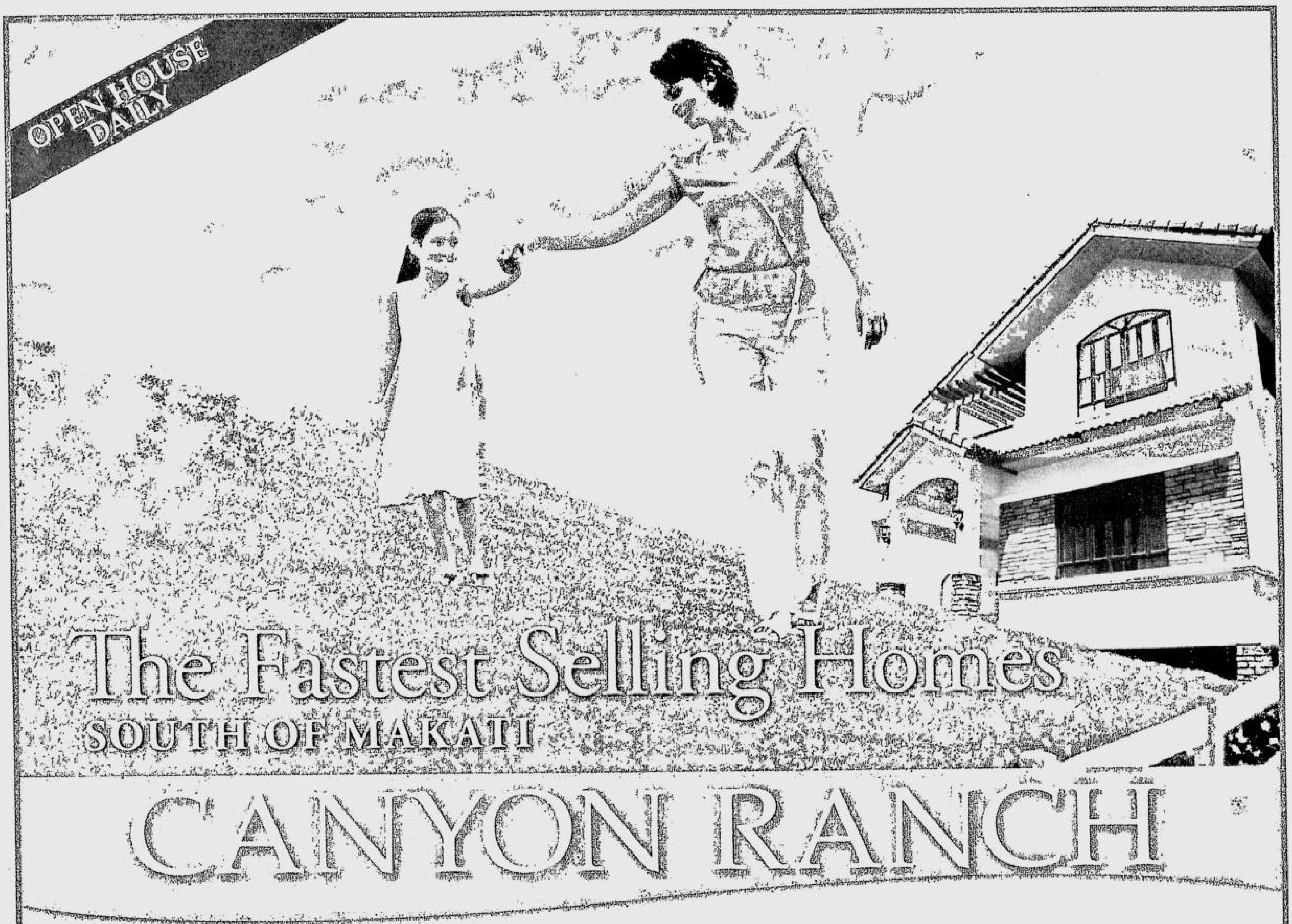
Skirts with a dose of drama, embellished tops, cropped jackets, sexy boleros, figure-flattering jeans, flirty dresses, pretty knits, tunics in different colors of the rainbow—there's bound to be something at Details to suit your taste. And the boys aren't left out either.

THE YIN/ E2



NOT just for girls. Details carries Porcupine, a clothing line for men.

With excellent finds for both girls and guys, this is one shop your boyfriend wouldn't mind going to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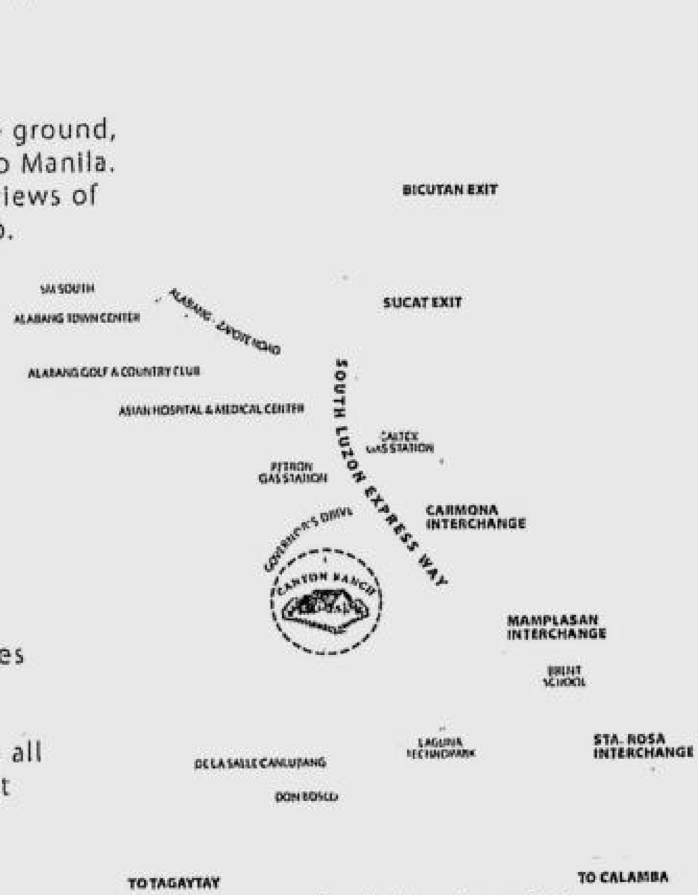
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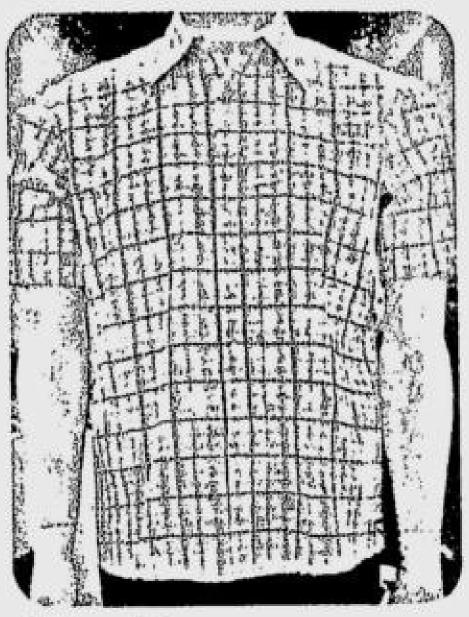

WE love pink on men.

SHIRT, P1,095

STRIPES never go out of style. Shirt, P1,195

The yin and

From page E1

Thanks to Porcupine, they can choose from a variety of shirts, button-down polos, jeans and jackets that match their style. Porcupine also gives men the license to be a little more adventurous with lots of colors, printed (even floral) fabric and ¾ sleeves.

Details also carries items from urban lifestyle brands Analog Soul and Urban Candy. There are a number of bags and accessories to choose from. With new items made available every week, there's always a good reason to visit Details.

While you try on that gorgeous sequined skirt, your boyfriend can pick out a crisp new shirt for your big weekend date. It's also the perfecr place for you to convince him that pink really looks good on men.

Check out Details Trading at 2/F Powerplant Mall, 2/F Eastwood City Walk 2, The Ramp 2/F Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, Rustan's Shangri-La, Alabang Town Center and at the second level of Festival Mall.

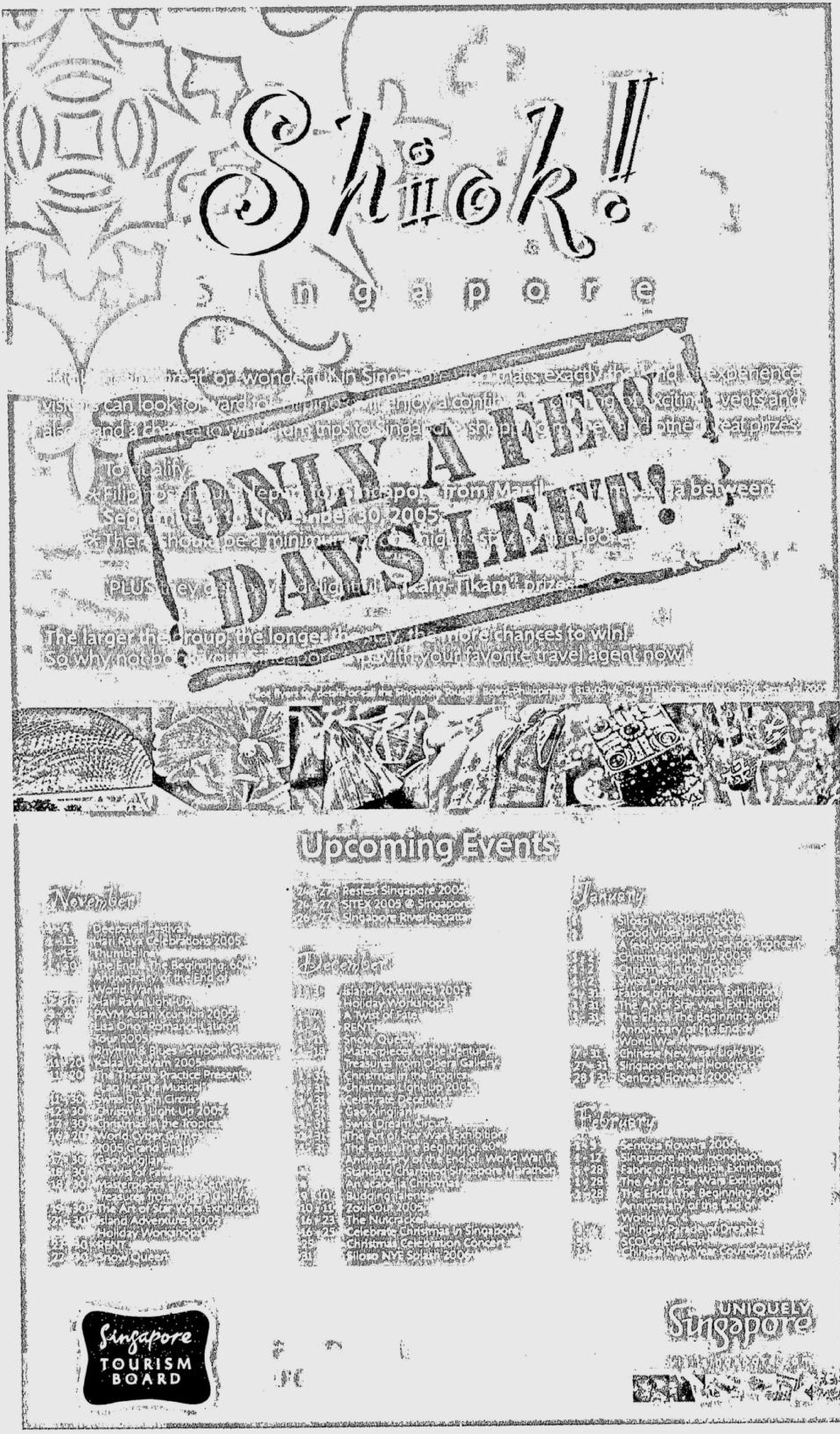
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com

BLACK with a dose of silver, P1,195

FLOWERS have never been this masculine, P1095

PERFECT for that big date, P1,295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CLOCKWISE from above: Bracelets, P295 to P495; necklaces, P495; chunky wooden bead necklaces, P395; bags, P1895, P650 and P895; crochet necklaces, P395

yang of fashion

WHITE tunic, P995

PINK tunic, P995

BLACK skirt with green crochet detail, P995

ORANGE tunic, P995

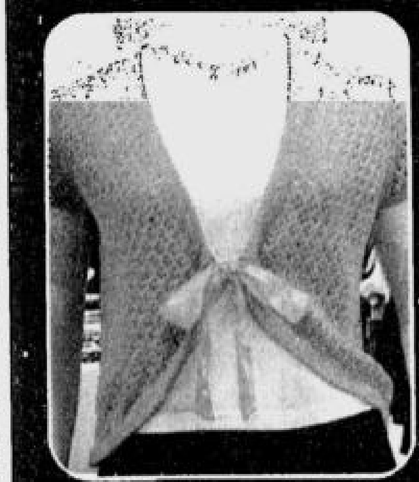
SATIN bolero, P595

CAMEL top with ruffles, P795

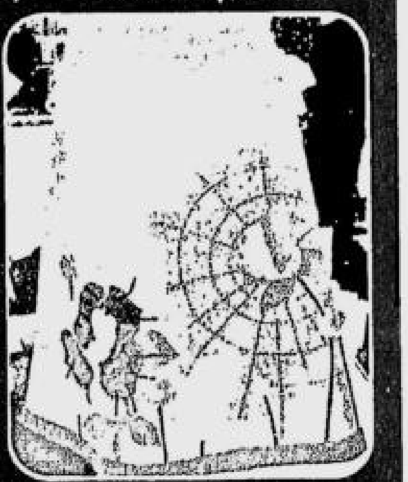
WHITE top with sequins, P695

BLUE top with floral accents, P695

PINK knit top, P995



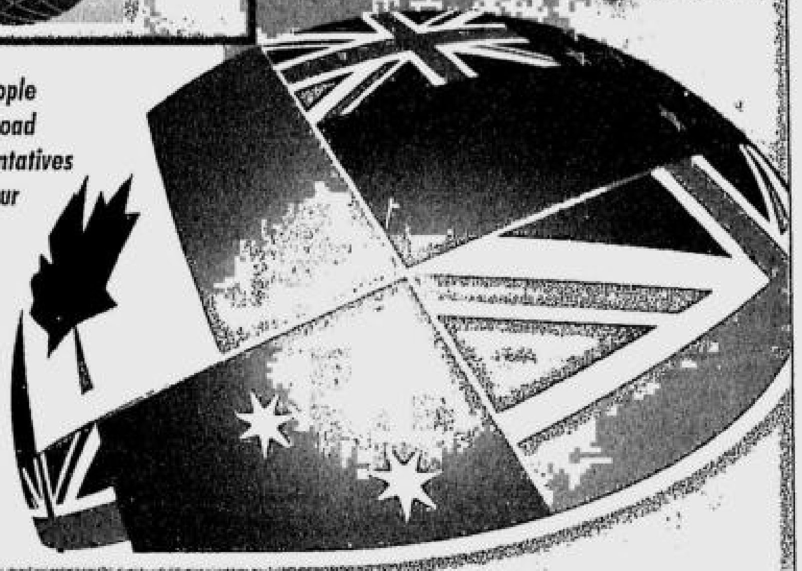
FUCHSIA Shrug-o-lero, P595



PINK skirt, P1,595

BLACK and white becomes more alive with gold accents.

CHRISTMAS mode. This skirt is perfect for the holidays, P1,595.



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THE SKINNY ON ACNE

Treat the skin, not the pimples

Text and photos by Bianca Consunji
2bUI Correspondent

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A SCENE FROM "HARRY Potter and the Goblet of Fire," where Professor Sprout, the herbology professor, asks the students to collect "bubutober pus" during a lesson to give to Madam Pomfrey, the school nurse:

"This'll keep Madam Pomfrey happy," said Professor Sprout, stoppering the last bottle with a cork. "An excellent remedy for the more stubborn forms of acne, bubutober pus. Should stop students resorting to desperate measures to rid themselves of pimples."

"Like poor Eloise Midgen," said Hannah Abbott, a Hufflepuff, in a hushed voice. "She tried to curse hers off."

"Silly girl," said Professor Sprout, shaking her head. "But Madam Pomfrey fixed her nose back in the end."

Admit it—haven't we all tried to pull off an Eloise Midgen and resorted to drastic measures to drive acne away? While we may not have the capabilities to curse pimples off our faces, there's certainly a long list of worse ways to remove acne.

What exactly causes acne? While it is true that stress, cosmetics and detergents (such as harsh shampoos and toothpaste) aggravate acne, they are not the direct sources of your pimples. They will only make worse an already existing condition. And do not blame your diet—chocolate and French fries will not cause acne—or your crush for the huge blemish on your nose. They have nothing to do with it at all.

Hormonal imbalance

The usual culprit behind acne is an imbalance of hormones, which causes the production of extra sebum and therefore, pimples. This could be because of your genes (if your parents were pimply in their childhood, you know who to blame) or other circumstances that could lead to this imbalance—puberty, menopause, pregnancy and monthly periods among them. So if you have a friend who has effortlessly clear skin, curse the genetic lottery and take better care of your skin instead of trying to imitate his/her (lack of) routine.

While others go directly to the source and have hormone treatments in order to lessen their acne, this can be costly and impractical in minor acne cases—sort of like swatting a fly with a nuclear bomb. Some treatments, like birth-control pills, have undesirable side effects such as weight gain and headaches. The more dangerous side effects include clots in blood vessels and an increased risk of breast cancer. Males who take birth-control pills suddenly find themselves saddled with a pair of breasts (while some do this intentionally, that's an entirely different story.)

A good skincare regimen will not only prevent more pimples from popping up, but will delay the onset of wrinkles and freckles. Simply washing your face just doesn't do anymore. In our more polluted environment, you will have to learn how to cleanse, tone and moisturize your skin at least once a day. Applying sunscreen even when you're not going out in the sun is also important because indoor lights also contain skin-harming rays. So if you're planning to spend extended hours in front of the computer for a term paper, make sure you've slathered on some SPF.

Old staple

If you're really going for a direct treatment of the pimple, you might want to check out an old staple: Benzoyl Peroxide.

However, Benzoyl Peroxide apparently isn't just a spot treatment. According to Dr. Bernadette Arcilla of the Philippine Dermatological Society, when faced with acne, you should treat the entire affected area with Benzoyl Peroxide, but don't overdo it! Too much of it (say, a huge dollop on top of the blemish) will dry out not just the pimple, but the surrounding skin as well, causing more damage. "The best way to apply it is to spread it evenly over the affected area, so that not only will the pimple dry out, but future breakouts will be prevented as well," Dr. Arcilla said.

Before buying a tube of treatment, said Dr. Arcilla, take note of the concentration of Benzoyl Peroxide before applying it—PanOxyl, for example, has three variants: 2.5 percent for mild acne, 5 percent for moderate acne and 10 percent for severe cases. The latter is best left for body acne, such as pimples on your back and chest, while facial acne is adequately treated by the less concentrated variants. Again, overdoing anything will cause more harm than good so always start with a smaller concentration.

Dr. Arcilla also advised patients to use medication daily—not just on a pimple, but on the entire affected area. "You should treat the skin, not the pimples. Pimples are just a symptom of something bigger," Dr. Arcilla said. "And if you treat it early, you can prevent scarring due to more blemishes."

Instead of treating just the surface, go for an acne management program. In the long-term process (which combines a good skincare regimen and acne treatment), pimples won't be gone in a week, but there is a significant 30- to 40-percent reduction of acne in one to two months. The process can be expedited with the help of your dermatologist, who can help you create an acne management program for yourself. This does take a lot more time than quick fix-acne treatments, but the results are permanent, at least.

Now, isn't that better than cursing pimples off your face?

Sources: www.acne.org, www.stiefel.com

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Away with acne in 4 easy steps

HAVING A HARD TIME making your own acne management program? Try this one from Stiefel, which has been manufacturing top dermatological products for the past 150 years, including PanOxyl, Physiogel, Oilatum and other products available in leading drugstores nationwide.

Step 1: Wash your face twice a day

Use a cleanser that removes dirt and bacteria, but does not strip necessary natural oils from your skin. A liquid soap-free cleanser such as Physiogel is good even for the most sensitive skin. Those plagued with more blemishes might want to try PanOxy Benzoyl Peroxide soap, which can also be used for the body.

Step 2: Acne treatment

After cleansing, apply the treatment of your choice on the affected area (again, not just on the blemish). If you're afraid of immunity from a particular concentration of Benzoyl Peroxide—which, according to Dr. Arcilla, is uncommon—then switch to another concentration for a week or so. Pat the medicine in as opposed to piling it on top of a blemish, but do not rub harshly.

Step 3: Moisturize

Go beyond scented and colored moisturizers—most of these can actually harm the skin, leaving it vulnerable to bacteria. Physiogel Cream, voted in Cosmopolitan Philippines' Beauty Awards as one of the best moisturizers in the market, is a no-frills formula which delivers results (healthy, supple skin without the oily feel) immediately.

Step 4: Apply sunscreen

Many people underestimate the importance of sunblock. Don't be one of them. Always apply sunscreen after your morning moisturizer to provide protection to your skin. Most damage is done to your skin by the age of 18, so start the sunscreen habit early. Try SpectraBan SPF19, a non-perfumed and non-greasy formula.

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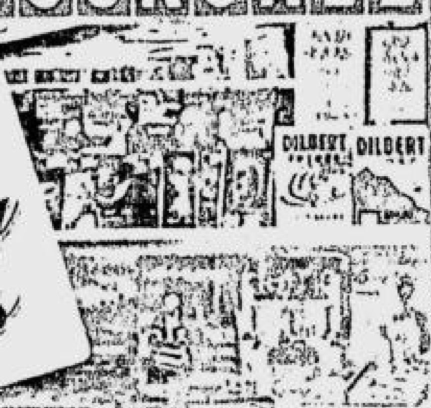
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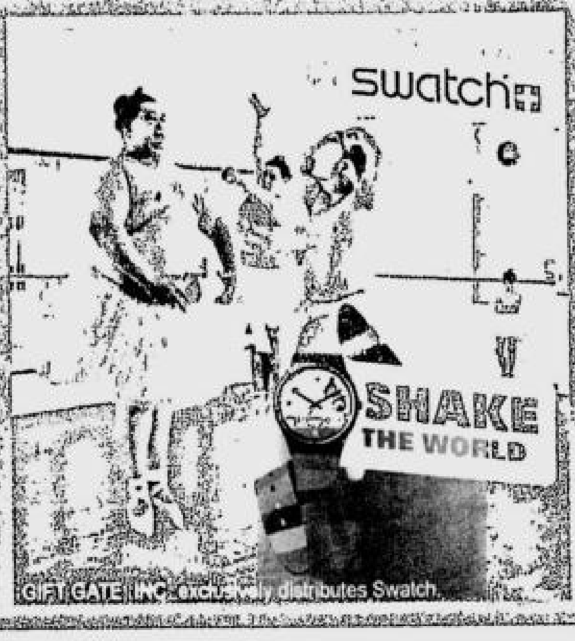
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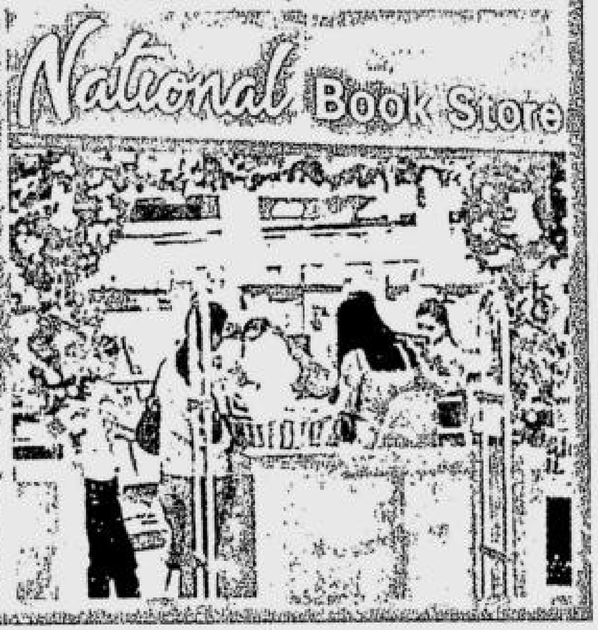
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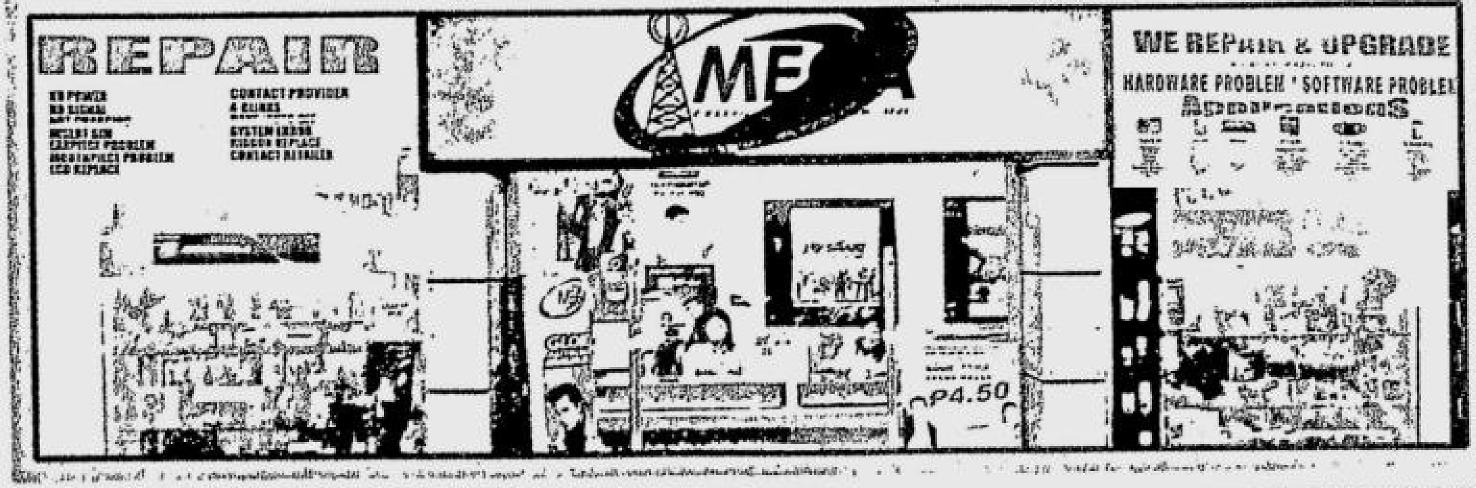
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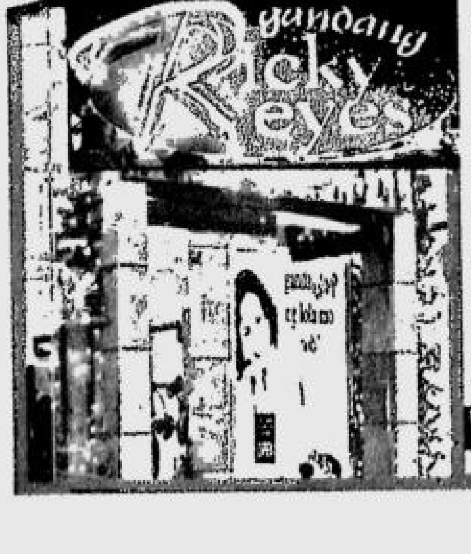
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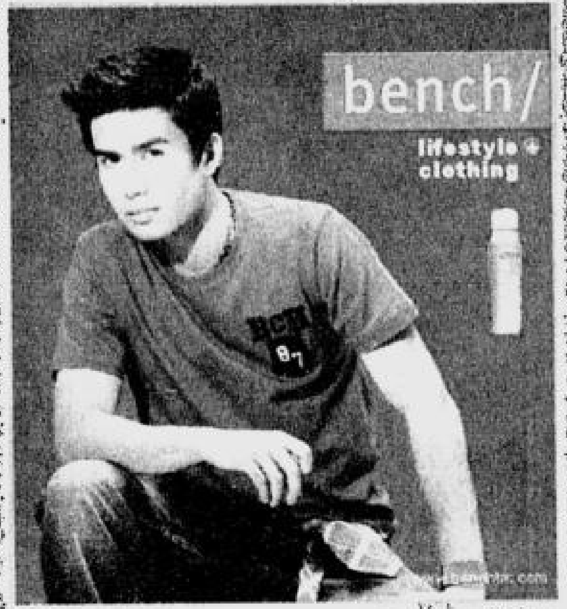
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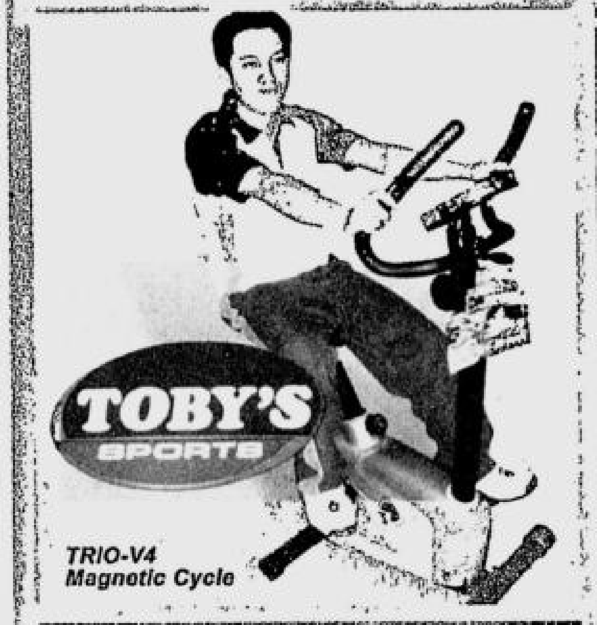
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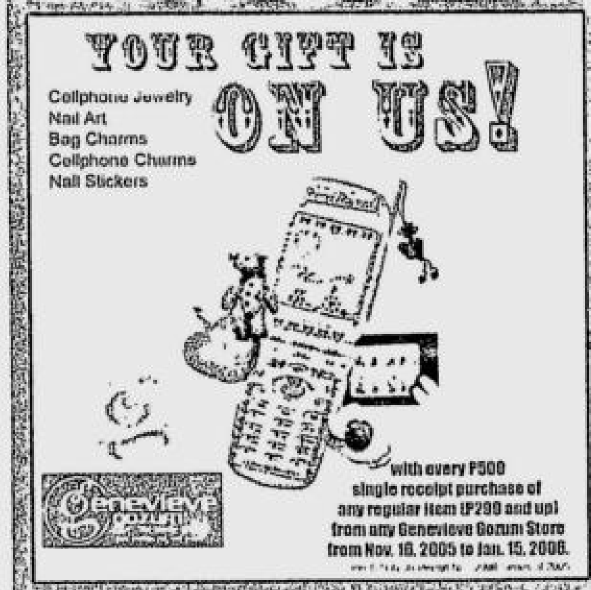

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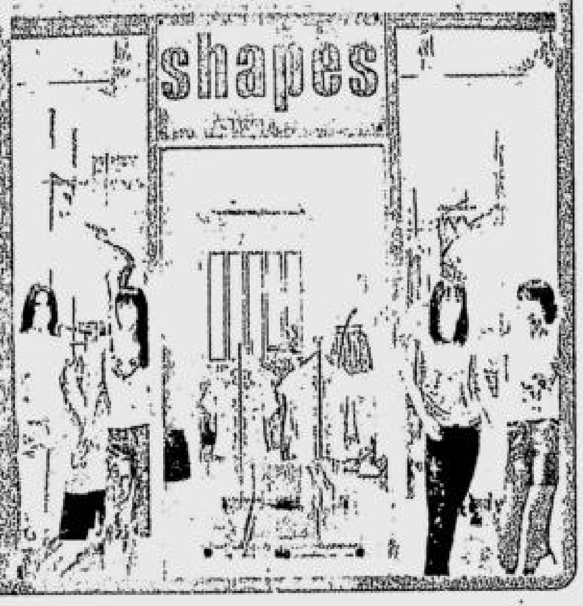

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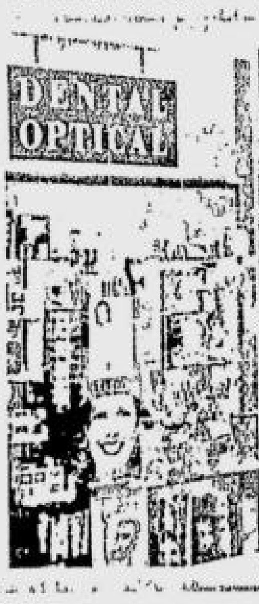
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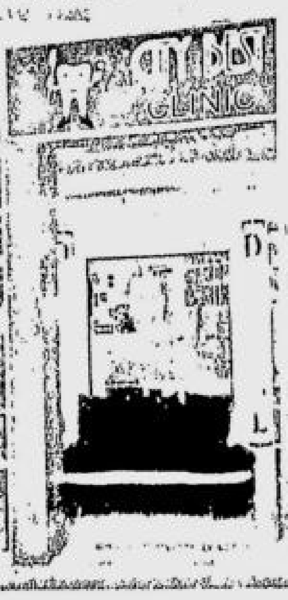

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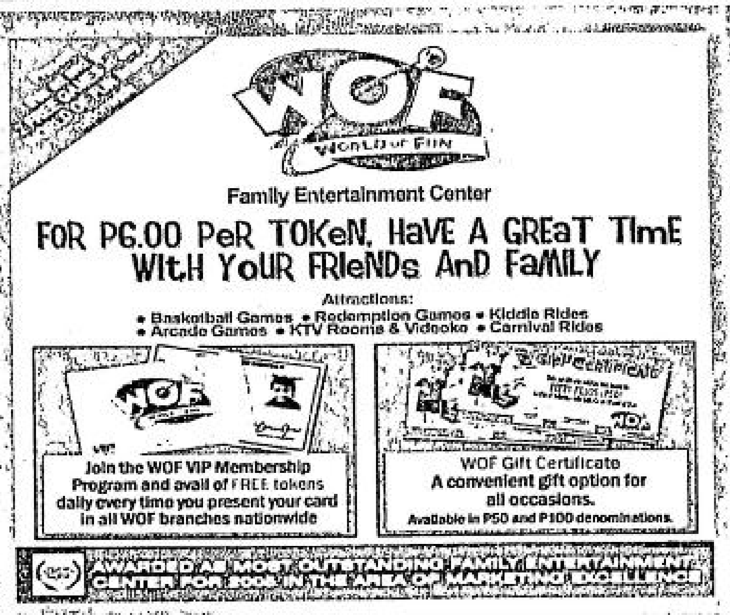
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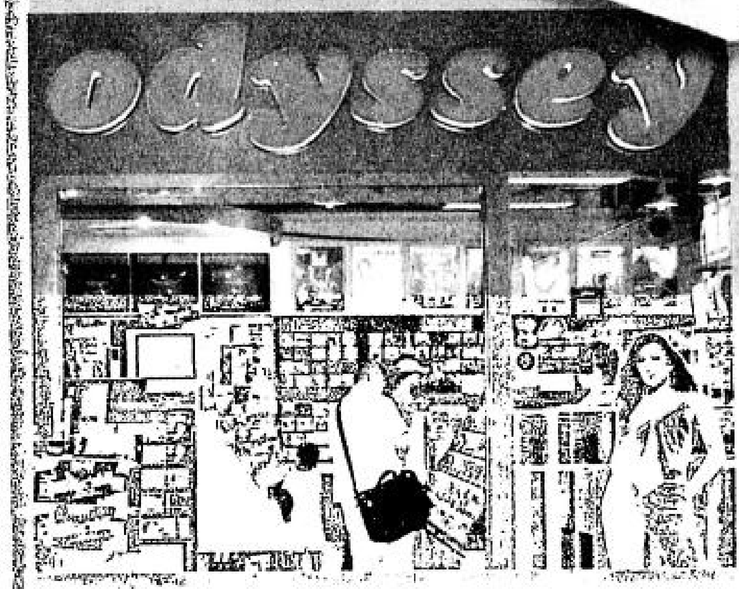

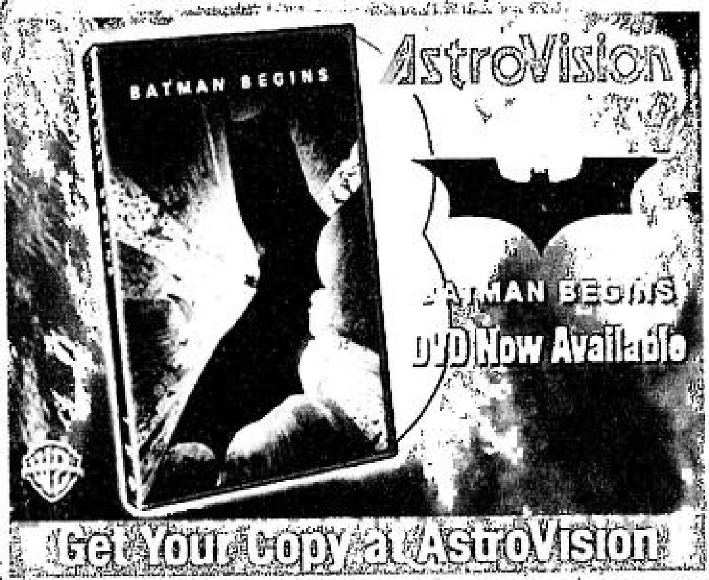
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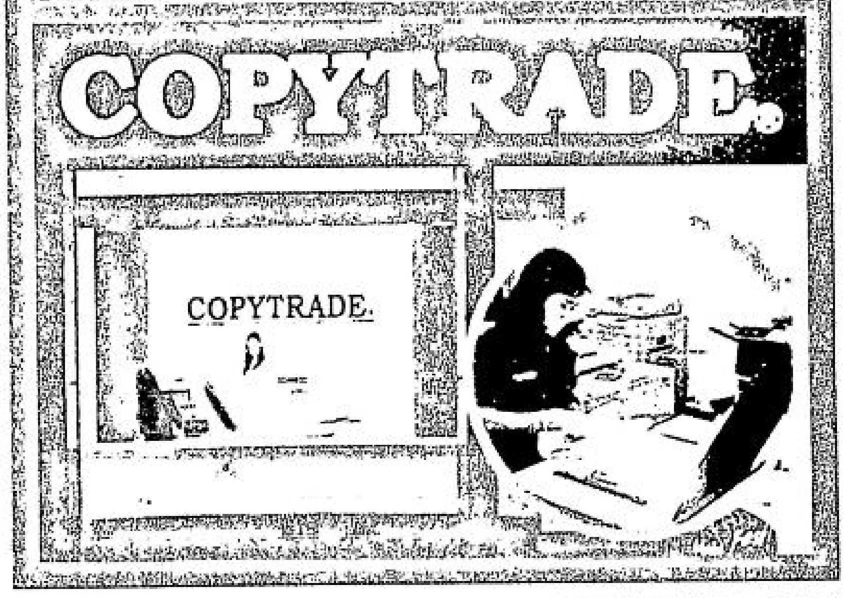
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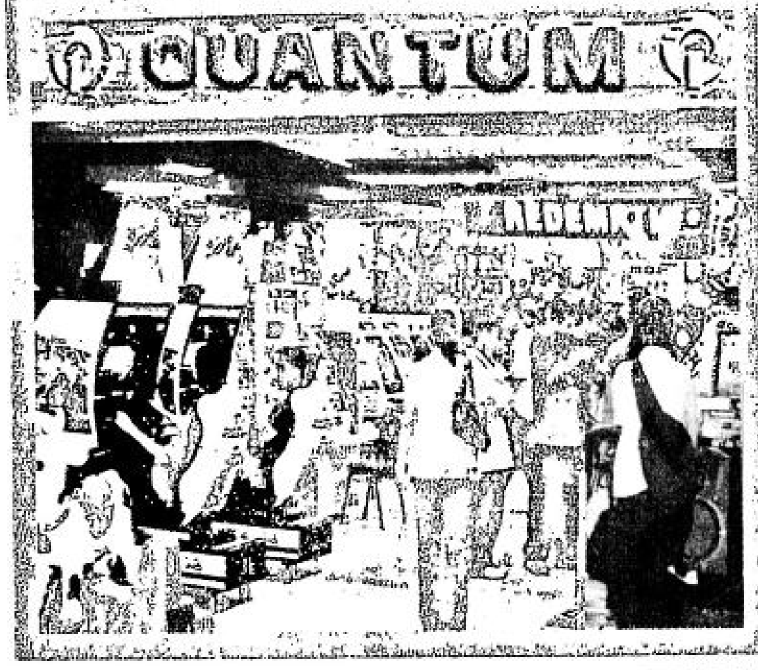

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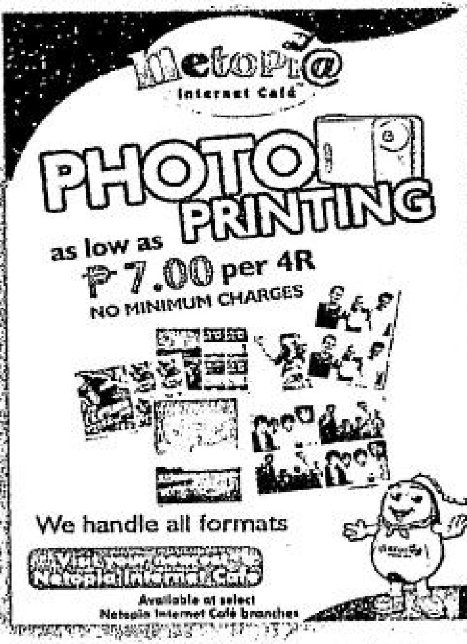
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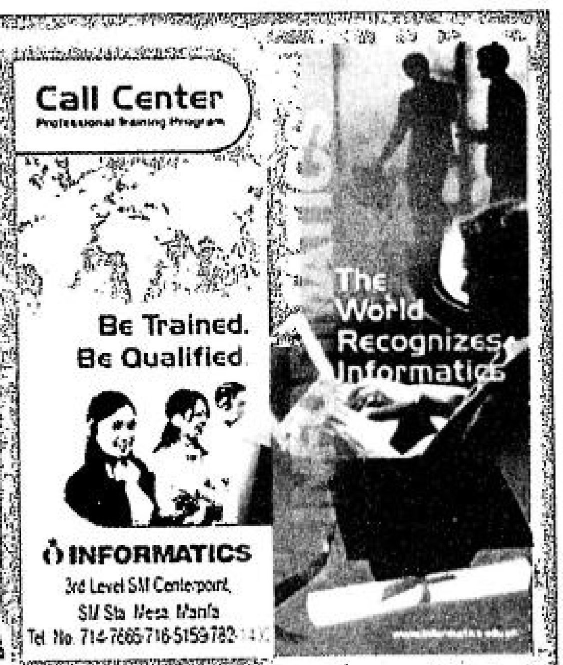
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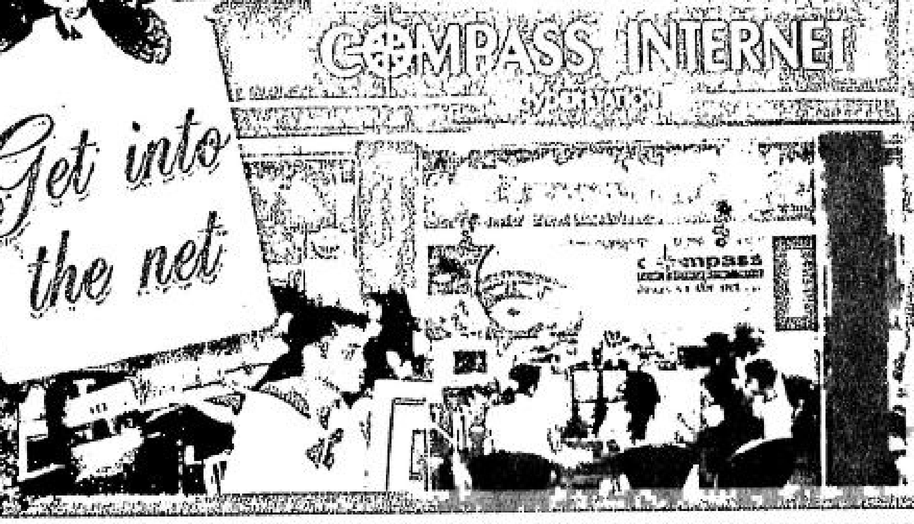
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